



Mother said
don't die speeding
like my son

Visa teaser
don't leave home
without one

Jonathan Miller
why his latest opera
is bottom-up

Living, Section Two

Travel, Section Two

Arts, Section Two

THE INDEPENDENT

WEDNESDAY 31 JULY 1996

WEATHER: Cloudy with sunny spells

40p (UK 45p)

Sentence on Bulger boys was unfair, say judges

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES
Legal Affairs Editor

Michael Howard's decision to order the boys who killed the toddler James Bulger to serve a 15-year minimum term was illegal, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday. The court declared he had been wrongly swayed by a flood of public petitions.

In his first clash with the Home Secretary since taking over as Master of the Rolls, Lord Woolf said it was clear that he took the many representations into account when fixing a higher "tariff" than the judiciary. That was fundamentally unfair because the material was "impossible to test or match".

As Mr Howard pondered his latest humiliation at the hands of the courts, Denise Bulger, James's mother, said it was "disgusting" that the court should call on the Home Secretary to ignore the quarter of a million people who had backed their campaign to have Robert Thompson and Jon Venables jailed for life.

Thousands of people signed petitions, letters, and coupons in the *Sun* newspaper urging that "life should mean life" after the two 10-year-olds abducted James, aged two, from a Bootle shopping centre and murdered him on an isolated railway line in February 1993.

The trial judge, Mr Justice Morland, ordered them to be detained during Her Majesty's Pleasure, the sole sentence for juvenile murderers, recommending a minimum "tariff" of eight years - the proportion of sentence reflecting punishment and deterrence. The then Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor, revised that upwards to 10 years.



James Bulger: Mother disgusted by ruling on tariff

but Mr Howard substantially raised it to 15.

Lord Justice Morritt agreed with Lord Woolf that the decision-making process had been flawed and illegal, adding that Mr Howard had failed to disclose the material on which he was basing his decision to lawyers for Thompson and Venables so that they could make representations, or to take into account psychiatric reports as a judge would have done.

The ruling means that Mr Howard has to reconsider his decision, but it will almost certainly reach the House of Lords and possibly the European Court of Human Rights. The Court of Human Rights, the fate of more than 200 other young killers in detention will also turn on the final ruling.

Alongside the blunt criticism from the judges, the judgment also reveals for the first time that two psychiatric reports on one of the boys, Venables, indicated an "excellent" response to the therapeutic work and current family support he was receiving. One report said: "There would be major concern for him

to have to progress through young offender institutions to prison," which Lord Woolf said, "is what is likely to happen if the present tariff is maintained".

Of the three judges, Lord Woolf was the most critical of the current system of sentencing for juvenile killers, although he stopped just short of declaring that the policy of setting of tariffs was illegal. But adopting a similar reasoning to a High Court ruling in May, he alone insisted that child killers should not be subjected to the same policy as adult murderers.

The ruling comes amid mounting calls for child killers to be subject to a flexible regime of regular reviews of their detention. Stephen Shaw, of the Prison Reform Trust, said: "The Home Secretary as a politician seeking re-election should play no part in deciding how long offenders spend in prison. Britain is a country ruled by law, not by tabloid newspapers."

But David Maclean, the Home Office minister, insisted: "The Court of Appeal has confirmed that the Home Secretary has the power, in principle, to set tariffs for juveniles convicted of murder, as he does for adult murderers."

The Tory MP John Greenway, a member of the home affairs select committee, said: "It seems that standards of fairness only apply to the interests of the criminal. I think a lot of people will be very angry about it."

Lord Woolf and Lord Justice Hobhouse said there was an urgent need for the Government to review the law, which Lord Woolf said no longer reflected the flexibility originally laid down by Parliament.

Conflict with courts, page 2

Britain ruled by the waves as east coast faces 'managed retreat'

LOUISE JURY

The first major plans to manage the British shoreline, now close to completion to the wave-battered east coast, are to concede defeat to the sea.

After hundreds of years of fending off flooding and fighting erosion, the Government's strategy for the first time will advocate working with nature, rather than against it.

It will formally recommend a "managed retreat" on some parts of the coast, by abandoning land to the waves, as leading experts warn that it is not practical or economically possible to hold back the tide like King Canute.

The tidal battering has already made 29 villages disappear along the Yorkshire coast in 70 years. Parts of the Suffolk coast are eroding at up to five metres a year.

The radical shift in policy will mean a more "natural" and environmentally-friendly approach to sea defences, the abandonment of hard concrete hulwarks, the extension of beaches as natural defences and the restoration of traditional coastal habitats, such as salt marshes and mudflats.

One consequence of the new policy will be to throw into question the future of nuclear power stations, such as Sizewell, which were built along the coast but which may find themselves stuck between areas of retreat.

But advocates of the proposals say they are a step forward in the race against rising sea-levels, a problem which is particularly severe on the east coast, where the land is sinking by half a centimetre a year.

Reg Purnell, the Ministry of Agriculture's chief flooding and coastline engineer, said: "I regard it as a quantum leap forward in planning our defences."

"It is the first time we will have an integrated approach, a recognition that a decision at point A will have an impact at point B. It is a realisation we need to work with nature rather than against nature, because it is more powerful than we are."

The plans have been devised by local authorities, with the

Ministry of Agriculture (Maff), the Environment Agency (formerly the National Rivers Authority) and public consultation.

They examined whether to hold the current coastal line, retreat, or do nothing along sections of the shoreline. The plans for north Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex are complete. Plans for the Wash, Lincolnshire and Holderness ought to be finished in the next few months.

Mr Purnell said they will make it easier for the public to see what may happen to their coastline and to their homes. The risks were highlighted three years ago, when the Holbeck Hall Hotel, in Scarborough, crumbled down a cliff.

Geoffrey Radley, maritime team engineer for English Nature, said that too often in the past, erecting sea defences on one stretch of coast had had an adverse effect on another stretch. The group has campaigned for five years on behalf of policies which are less harsh to the environment.

"Engineers used to be wedded to hard concrete structures and fixed defences. We've been trying to change that, although there will always be a role for hard structures like the Thames Barrier which you have to have," he said.

Professor John Pethick, of Cambridge University's coastal research unit, said there were inadequacies in the management plans. "There certainly isn't enough radical thinking, but it is a step in the right direction."

He believes that in most cases, it would be impractical to hold the existing sea defence line over a long period. "In the short or middle term you have to hold the line where cities and industries are at risk. In the long-term we ought to evacuate some areas."

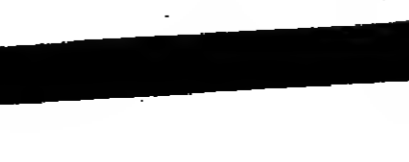
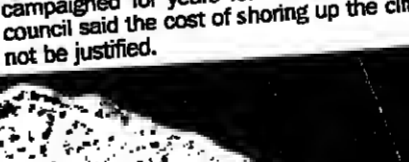
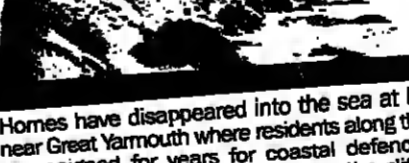
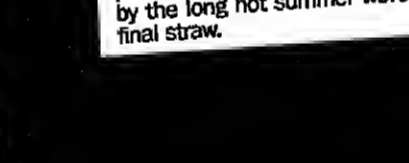
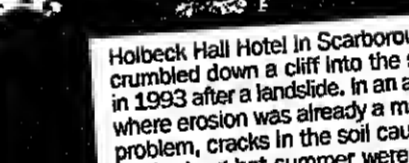
Mr Purnell said Maff knew that the shoreline management plans were not a panacea.

"Plans will have to be reviewed every five years. As we've got increased knowledge, we will have to feed it back in. There is an awful lot about Mother Nature that we don't know."

Coastal retreat, page 3



The sea battering a 40-mile stretch of Europe's fastest eroding coastline in Yorkshire which it would cost millions of pounds to control. Twenty-nine villages have disappeared in the last 70 years.



Universities to lose 3,000 jobs in cash cuts

FRAN ABRAMS
Education Correspondent

Three thousand jobs will be lost in British universities in the next year because of funding cuts, and two-thirds of institutions will be forced to make staff compulsorily redundant, according to a report ordered by ministers.

Officials at the Department for Education and Employment have told Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State, that spending per student has fallen by one-third since 1989 and will fall by a further fifth in the next three years if new money is not found. The universities hope she will use the evidence to argue their case in this year's public expenditure round, but the report, which has been passed to the *Independent*, is bound to embarrass her.

She has maintained that cuts of 50 per cent in capital funding over three years could be largely restored through business sponsorship and that most of the cuts of 5 per cent (in real terms) of overall spending, announced in last November's Budget, could be absorbed through efficiency gains.

The report, the result of a joint working group between officials and the universities, reveals that the number of students per lecturer has gone up from 10 in 1986 to 16 today. It maintains that quality has not yet been affected by cash shortages, with the percentage of students gaining a 2:1 or a first rising from 48 to 50 per cent

between 1991 and 1994. However, vice-chancellors fear that quality will be hit before the end of the century if the Chancellor does not reverse the cuts.

Although most universities will try to reduce jobs through natural wastage and redeployment, the majority will be unable to make the necessary cuts without compulsory redundancies. Five per cent of the total 60,000 academic staff in universities and higher education colleges will have to go if they are to balance their books.

Each member of staff already has 40 per cent more students than in 1989 and the level is set to continue to rise. The universities' assets are set to decline by £90m in the next four years, leaving them with no financial cushion at all, the report says. Spending on equipment, which stood at £260m in 1994-95, will drop by 70 per cent in the current financial year, it says.

Last night Diana Warwick, chief executive of the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals, said: "There is a weight of evidence that here that it will be difficult to ignore."

A spokesman for the Department for Education said the views in the reports were those of the universities, although they had been written jointly with officials. "We will certainly take account of what the reports say as part of the public expenditure round. It is up to universities and colleges to run their own affairs."

QUICKLY

Condon softens line

The country's senior police officer, Sir Paul Condon, yesterday became the latest chief constable to back calls to ease controls on prostitution. He said he favoured a more liberal approach to off-street prostitution. **Page 5**

Keyhole future

Keyhole surgery for the heart, which is undergoing clinical trials in three British hospitals, could replace conventional bypass operations, doctors claimed yesterday. **Page 6**

Buyoya implicated

Pierre Buyoya, the new President of Burundi brought to power by the army last week, has been implicated in a coup attempt which led to the assassination of the country's first elected president. **Page 10**

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Guerin murder inquiry: Millionaire issues public denial as police turn up heat in hunt for killer of Irish investigative reporter

Suspicion falls on big-league gambler

ALAN MURDOCH
Dublin

Detectives have taken away a large quantity of documents from the home of a man who admits he is a prime suspect in the investigation into the murder last month of the crime journalist, Veronica Guerin.

John Gilligan, 44, is still in Amsterdam, where he went in the same week that the 36-year-old reporter with the *Sunday Independent* was shot in an apparent contract killing by two men on a motorcycle.

In an interview following the shooting, Mr Gilligan, a millionaire with a large home and equestrian centre held in his wife's name in County Kildare, admitted he was the chief suspect but denied any involvement in the murder and claimed he was being set up.

Mr Gilligan, who has a son, 20, and a daughter aged 21, admitted having threatened to

kill Ms Guerin and warned her he would kidnap and rape her young son if she did not cease her inquiries into his activities. He claimed he never meant the threat to kill the award-winning journalist. "I was angry. I thought it might make her leave me and my family alone," he told the *Sunday Tribune*.

With an extensive criminal record ranging from theft to receiving stolen goods and assault, Mr Gilligan claimed he earned his income from gambling and denies being a major drug dealer, though he does admit having numerous criminal convictions. He also denies allegations that he assaulted Ms Guerin when she tried to interview him in September 1995.

Mr Gilligan denied Irish media suggestions that the numerous cheques he received from bookmakers were derived from laundering the proceeds of ecstasy, cannabis and tobacco smuggling through gambling.



Investigative reporter Veronica Guerin, who was shot dead in her car (above) last month in an apparent contract killing

Irish newspapers claim bookmakers' shops received an average of £10,000 (£31,500) a week from Mr Gilligan in bets on short-odds favourites, with a single west Dublin outlet taking £1.2m in bets from him in two years. Since the media spotlight fell on Mr Gilligan,

staff have left the family's equestrian centre and it is no longer trading.

The murder of Ms Guerin was the latest in a wave of 12 unsolved contract-type shootings in Dublin in the last two years. The shooting prompted national outrage amid claims that

powerful drug barons were now beyond the reach of the law. Ms Guerin's employers, the Dublin-based media group Independent Newspapers, have offered a £100,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of her killers.

The public reaction prompted

the Irish government to hold a special summer session of the Dail last week to pass five emergency crime bills targeting the assets of major crime figures, alongside new measures to reduce court delays and reduce the shortage of prison accommodation which has led

to widespread early releases.

Less than a week before the shooting, the Taoiseach, John Bruton, told a international crime conference in Dublin, that domestic policing resources in the Republic had been seriously weakened by the security demands of combating the

armed campaigns of paramilitary organisations in the Northern Ireland conflict.

While the main focus in the investigation into the Guerin killing has focused on Mr Gilligan, gardai have emphasised that they are not closing other lines of inquiry, given the number of criminals that the reporter had investigated. These included all 12 of the main organised crime gangs in the Irish capital, with activities ranging from drug dealing to armed robbery.

Last weekend, six men including two brothers from Dublin, Kildare and Tipperary were released after questioning about a crime uncovered during the Guerin investigation. Searches at a number of addresses led to the seizure of £250,000 in cash. Inquiries are continuing, though gardai stress there is no direct connection with the murder.

Earlier this month, a Dublin garage owner John Traynor won an injunction preventing the *Sunday Independent* from publishing a report based on Ms Guerin's investigations.

A Tipperary farmer, Joseph Kenny from Fancroft, Roscrea, who was the subject of repeated investigation by Ms Guerin, was yesterday ordered by the Dublin High Court to pay back £22.8m to the beef trader Larry Goodman and three meat firms.

Mr Goodman had complained of fraud after the mortgage – leased in March 1990, covered by a promissory note and due for repayment in June 1990 – passed in part to a South African Cypriot.

The court will consider the issue of interest arising from the debt and a possible Supreme Court appeal application by Mr Kenny on 28 August.

Imran's 'humiliation and denigration of Botham'

Imran Khan, the former Pakistan cricket captain, "lashed out" at Ian Botham because he was "battered" at the public trial given to his own confession of ball-tampering, the High Court was told yesterday.

Charles Gray QC, for Botham and his former England teammate Allan Lamb, said: "We say he is not the fair-minded, balanced observer of the cricketing scene he would have you believe, but someone who loses no opportunity to denigrate and humiliate Ian Botham."

Botham and Lamb are suing Imran over an "offensive personal attack" on them in *India Today* magazine which, they say, called them racist, uneducated and lacking class.

Botham alone is suing Imran over a May 1994 report in the *Sun* which he alleges accused him of ball-tampering – something he says he has never done.

Imran, who denies libel, says

his words were taken out of context and he was only trying to defend himself.

Mr Gray, in his closing speech, told the jury that Imran's defence of qualified privilege fell "at every hurdle".

It failed because the articles by the two former England players, to which Imran responded, were justifiable, and because his "counter-attack" went beyond self-defence. Most of all, Imran was malicious in that the allegations of racism and ball-tampering did not stem from an honest belief, said the QC.

He reminded the jury that Imran was responsible for the way his case was conducted by George Carman QC. Mr Gray asked "what in heaven's name sensational 12-year-old tabloid allegations about Botham, cocaine and Miss Barbados, introduced by Mr Carman, had to do with the action."

"I'm suggesting to you that that is a plain, old-fashioned smear introduced on the off-

chance that one or other of you may be prejudiced as a result of it being made," Mr Gray said.

He asked the jury to consider Imran's review of Botham's autobiography, in which he took "every opportunity to nit-pick" and introduce fibes at his expense.

On the question of damages, he described racism as a "grave libel" whereas ball-tampering amounted to the very serious charge of cheating.

Any award could be aggravated by the absence of an apology and the conduct of the defence over the ball-tampering allegation. He concluded: "This is not a case where my clients want an extravagant award."

"But, in the circumstances, they are entitled to look to you for an award of damages of sufficient size for them to be able to point at it after this case is over as evidence that you, the jury, reject as unfounded these charges made against them."

The trial continues today.



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Condon backs softer controls on prostitution

JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

The country's senior police officer yesterday became the latest chief constable to back calls to soften controls on prostitution.

Sir Paul Condon, Metropolitan Police Commissioner, said he was against legalising brothels or setting up red light "zones of tolerance" but favoured a

more liberal approach to off-street prostitution. One suggestion was to allow several women to sell sex from a single premises as a way of offering protection to prostitutes.

His comments were triggered by an interview in the *Independent* with Keith Hellawell, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, in which he called for the legalisation of brothels. This was supported by Pauline Clare,

Chief Constable of Lancashire, who agreed that licensing saunas, massage parlours and escort agencies where prostitutes plied their trade would enable greater protection, health checks and a source of tax.

Sir Paul said he supported the findings of an investigation in 1984-85 by the Criminal Law Review Committee which suggested allowing more than one prostitute to work in the same

premises. However, he was opposed to sanctioning legal brothels. He said this could lead to "no go areas" for the police in which organised crime, pimps and drug dealing would flourish. "You will not necessarily drive the prostitutes off the street," he said. He also argued for laws to make kerb crawling an arrestable offence.

Like most police forces, vice officers in London rarely raid

sauna or massage parlours that are fronts for brothels. A Met spokesman said that action was only taken when organised crime was involved, prostitutes were being forced to work or they were causing a nuisance.

Paul Whitehouse, Chief Constable of Sussex, has proposed the setting up of a review of the laws on prostitution.

The spokeswoman for the Home Office said yesterday

that there were no plans to relax the laws on prostitution.

Sir Paul was speaking at the launch of the Met's annual report, which disclosed that the Operation Eagle Eye blitz on street crime was helping to reduce muggings. Although up to March there had been a 15 per cent rise in street crime this had been converted to a 5 per cent fall in the past seven months.

The scheme caused a row

after Sir Paul said that black youngsters were responsible for much of the street crime. Results showed that 69 per cent of people arrested in Operation Eagle Eye were black.

Sir Paul attacked what he described as the "lottery" amounts being awarded in damages against police. His comments follow a rise in awards against the Met from £86,000 in the last financial year to £627,000.

The report also revealed:

■ The success in reducing house burglaries has come to a halt with the number of break-ins stabilising at about 103,000.

■ A rise in the number of reported sexual offences by 10 per cent to 6,790, and a 10 per cent fall in the number of arrests. ■ And that proportionately black people are more than 2.5 times as likely to be stopped and searched than whites.

Ministers who mislead House should resign

CHRIS BLACKHURST
Westminster Correspondent

It is impossible to distinguish between ministerial accountability and responsibility, said a powerful all-party group of MPs yesterday, in an implied rebuke to Government ministers who argued the opposite at the Scott arms to Iraq inquiry.

In a reaffirmation of the doctrine of ministerial responsibility, the Commons Public Service Select Committee, said: "It is not composed of two elements with a clear break between the two."

The committee was examining the issues raised by the Scott report and the lack of candour shown by ministers in telling Parliament that the guidelines on exports to Iraq had been changed. "Ministers have an obligation to Parliament which consists in ensuring that government explains its actions," stressed the MPs.

They "have an obligation to respond to criticism in Parliament in a way that seems likely to satisfy it - which may include resignation". Any minister "who has been found to have knowingly misled Parliament should resign".

The duty to be open with MPs, said the committee, should be endorsed by the passing of a resolution of the Commons. Other recommendations included allowing MPs to complain to the parliamentary ombudsman about their treatment by a Whitehall department.

It should be standard practice for ministers, when refusing to

answer a parliamentary question, to give the grounds for withholding information.

Civil servants should be brought within the same rules governing disclosure to MPs by ministers. The Osmotherly Rules, covering evidence to select committees by civil servants, should be amended to allow chief executives of Government agencies to appear before MPs.

There should be greater dialogue between select committees and the National Audit Office. At present the NAO only responds to the Public Accounts Committee. Departmental select committees should have the power to order the watchdog to examine the effectiveness of the department.

The committee's recommendations on executive agencies stemmed from the row last year over the departure of Derek Lewis, head of the Prison Service. Mr Lewis, and not the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, took the blame for the operational failings which led to the break-out from Parkhurst on the Isle of Wight.

Giles Radice, the Labour chairman of the committee, said it was vital the relationship between minister and chief executive "is defined more closely". He believed the setting out of ministerial accountability in a Commons resolution was a crucial reform.

The Government has three months in which to respond. The resolution could then be passed by MPs when they return in October.



Cliff-hanger: Bonington's 1982 aerial view of the unexplored mountain range of north-east Tibet taken on a flight to Lhasa

Photograph: Chris Bonington

Bonington sets out to conquer Tibet's unknown peak

STEPHEN GOODWIN

Blanks on the map are hard for would-be pioneers to find these days. So much so that Sir Chris Bonington's title for the prospects of his latest venture, *The Last Great Unexplored Mountain Range*, seems a little far-fetched.

But it is a fair description of the region of north-east Tibet which he and fellow climber

Charles Clarke will head for later this week.

No European has visited it, no climber has attempted any of the mountains, or penetrated the glaciated valleys that guard it, according to Sir Chris.

Two Europeans went to a range to the south before the Second World War and reported on the high mountains to the north. Sir Chris got a view from 60 miles away, while on a flight

from Chengdu, in China, to the Tibetan capital, Lhasa, in 1982. His photograph reveals jagged ridges and steep, spiky summits.

US air force and Russian surveys show at least 20 peaks that are over 6,000m (19,700ft).

"We know the highest mountain is called Sepu Kangri [22,700ft] but the only view we have got is from the south," Sir Chris said. "It looks dangerous; steep-sided with big, ice cliffs."

We are hoping there's a better route from the north, but we don't know whether it can be approached from that side."

The main expedition flies via Kathmandu to Lhasa in mid-April 1997, when Sir Chris and Clarke will be joined by three other British climbers.

The trip will be a race; to meet representatives of the China-Tibet Mountaineering Association who handle the

climbing permits, approach the range by four-wheel drive vehicle across the Tibetan plateau and then head in to unknown territory.

"The race, in a way, is the most exciting part of the whole thing," Sir Chris said. It will be the monsoon season so crossing rivers may be a problem. But it is above the glaciers that the exploration will begin in earnest, as the pair climb the flanks of

the mountains, testing Sepu Kangri's defences. The race could mean the difference between success or failure in 1997, when the team will not be able to afford to spend weeks testing dead ends.

Sir Chris and Charles Clarke, a consultant neurologist, aged 53, have made several expeditions together. Sir Chris will celebrate his 62nd birthday as the pair fly into Lhasa on 6 August.

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news

Keyhole surgery hope for heart patients

LIZ HUNT
Health Editor

New operating technique undergoing tests could cut down hospital recovery time from 10 to three days

Keyhole surgery for the heart, which is undergoing clinical trials in three British hospitals, could replace conventional bypass operations, doctors claimed yesterday.

The new technique allows the removal of a diseased blood vessel and the replacement of a

new, healthy vessel, through several small incisions - the biggest is about seven centimetres long - in the patient's chest.

This compares with a nine inch incision to facilitate sternotomy - cutting through the breast bone - which is necessary for a coronary by-pass, during which veins from the legs are

used to replace blocked arteries supplying the heart with oxygen. American experience suggests this new approach to heart surgery will cut the length of stay in hospital from six to 10 days, to about three days.

However, some heart specialists have cautioned against excessive optimism. Although

keyhole techniques for other surgical procedures have a valuable role to play in healthcare, there have been widespread problems which have diminished their early promise.

Unexpected complications have arisen during and after surgery which have necessitated prolonged hospital stays or

readmission shortly after discharge. Some doctors, with minimal training in keyhole techniques, have been criticised for performing them.

Initially, the technique known as minimally invasive cardiac surgery (MICS), will be used in patients with single vessel heart disease, and the tri-

als will compare the results with similar patients being treated with angioplasty (in which a balloon is inflated inside the blocked vessel to remove the blockage) or by-pass.

A small number of patients have already been treated, have recovered well, and have been allowed home, a spokesman

for the trial said yesterday.

Neil Moat, consultant cardiologist and leader of the trial at the Royal Brompton Hospital, London, said if the trials were successful, the surgery would be extended to treat patients with multi-vessel disease.

Ciro Campanella, consultant cardiologist and

leader of the trial at the Royal Infirmary, said: "This is an exciting opportunity to fully evaluate the benefits of minimally invasive cardiac surgery. This new approach has the potential to transform the way we will be working in the next few years. Furthermore, to be in association with Brompton and Papworth hospitals is a unique chance to share experience and assess more patients in a shorter time."

Briton jailed in Philippine sex crackdown

STEPHEN VINES
Hong Kong

A Briton living in the Philippines has become the second foreigner to be sent to jail following the Philippine government's decision to crack down on paedophiles.

Steven Roy Mitchell, a computer analyst from Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, was yesterday sentenced to 17 years in jail and ordered to pay compensation of 200,000 pesos (£5,000) for molesting two boys aged four and eight.



Mitchell: Sentenced to 17 years in jail for child abuse

Passing judgment in the capital, Manila, Judge Lorenzo Veneracion, said he was satisfied that Mitchell was "guilty beyond reasonable doubt". The 44-year-old Briton had been renting a room in the apartment where the boys live. He was found to have offered inducements to family members to gain access to the boys.

This was the second time that Mitchell has been charged with a similar offence. It is believed that he avoided prosecution the first time by making payments to the victims' families. In cases against other paedophiles, the prosecutions were handled so incompetently that no convictions were secured.

However there is a growing

political determination to tackle the problems of paedophilia and child prostitution. In 1992 a law was passed to give special protection to children threatened by paedophiles.

Mitchell's conviction coincides with the visit to Manila by Ann Widdecombe, the Home Office minister, who was briefing the Philippine authorities on British legislation to prosecute paedophiles who commit illegal acts overseas.

It also coincides with the end of a training programme, conducted by officers from Scotland Yard, for a squad of 26 Filipino policemen, justice department agents, state prosecutors and social workers to help the victims, to gather evidence against offenders, and to crack rings of organised paedophiles.

Non-governmental child-care agencies in Manila have alleged that many victims of sexual abuse have been forced into prostitution by their families who are living in conditions of extreme poverty. However, Filipino law makers believe that stepping up punishment is the way to deter offenders. Earlier in the year they passed a law imposing the death penalty for child abusers whose crimes lead to the death or insanity of a minor.

Remarkably, given the high level of known paedophilic activity in the Philippines, only four people, including Mitchell, have been successfully prosecuted for child-sex abuse. The first foreigner to be sent to jail was Keith Fitzgerald, a 66-year-old Australian found guilty of paying to have sex with a 13-year-old girl. Two Filipino men have also been convicted of child sex offences. Another Briton, alongside a Frenchman and a German, are awaiting trial on child-abuse offences.

Social workers in Manila are worried that some men are turning to children in the mistaken belief that they are less likely than prostitutes to carry the Aids virus.

DAILY POEM

Forever is composed of Nows

By Emily Dickinson

Forever - is composed of Nows -
It's not a different time -
Except for infiniteness -
And Latitude of Home -

From this - experienced Here -
Remove the Dates - to These -
Let Months dissolve in further Months -
And Years - exhale in Years -

Without Debate - or Pause -
Or Celebrated Days -
No different Our years would be
From Anno Domini's -

Emily Dickinson was born in Amherst, Massachusetts in 1830 and died there in 1886. She wrote nearly 1,800 poems in her lifetime, the majority after her mid-twenties when she turned her back on the world and lived as a recluse. In her use of common metre and regular stanzas she is characteristic of her age, but there is a metaphysical range and irony in her work that is quite distinctive. *The Complete Poems of Emily Dickinson* are published by Little, Brown at £9.99.



Set piece: Sally Thomas, seven, of Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, showing her ballet steps to Virginia Bottomley yesterday at the Royal Festival Hall on the South Bank, London. The Secretary of State for National Heritage was at the RFH to launch a policy paper on the arts and young people. Photograph: Andrew Buurman

Auditors shave £775m from taxpayer's bill

CHRIS BLACKHURST
Westminster Correspondent

Savings for the taxpayer of £775m over the past three years were announced yesterday by the National Audit Office, the public-spending regulator.

Presenting his annual report, Sir John Bourn, head of the audit office, said £240m had been saved in 1995, bringing the three-year total to £775m.

Of the £240m, more than £34m came from cutting social security fraud. Another £20m was saved by making universities take a more professional approach to buying supplies.

The Immigration Service was also told to pull up its socks and to pursue the airlines, especially those from the Third World, who had not paid their dues. This yielded a further £1.6m.

Examination of the dealings between Customs and Excise and the Isle of Man showed more than £1m mistakenly paid to the millionaires' tax haven.

One of the main recipients of the NAO's wrath, not for the first time, was the Ministry of Defence. Of the 25 major procurement projects underway, 90 per cent have failed or are likely to fail to meet their completion dates. The average delay, found the NAO, was 3.1 years.

Quarry House in Leeds, the new NHS executive headquarters, complete with swimming pool, also came in for criticism. Somebody in Whitehall, says the report, should have had their knuckles rapped for giving the go-ahead to a new building which will result in 2 per cent less office space than before.

The audit office is continuing

its drive into education, which accounts for £28bn of public money in England and £2bn in Scotland and Wales. More than 1,000 grant-maintained schools fall within its remit, as well as further and higher education colleges, and the Student Loans Company, which the report says is unlikely to recover £125m because borrowers have either died, or are unlikely to earn enough to pay back the loan.

While the NAO examines European Commission expenditure in the UK, it does not have the same rights as the much-maligned auditors in Brussels. They are able to trace public cash all the way to its final destination - something denied to Sir John and his colleagues, who, once the money is paid over into private hands, must give up the chase.

Female surgeons double their numbers ... to 4%

COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

Women appear to be turning their backs on careers as hospital surgeons, in spite of a general growth in the number of female doctors in the National Health Service.

The proportion of female hospital medical consultants grew from 13 per cent to 19 per cent over the past decade but figures released today show that only 4 per cent of surgeons are women.

The health service bulletin reveals that women who go into hospital for obstetric and gynaecology problems are still more likely to be treated by a man than a woman; the percentage of female consultants has risen by only 4 per cent since 1985, to 16 per cent in 1995.

The percentage of female

surgeons has risen from 2 to 4 per cent. In the whole of the NHS, only 160 surgeons are women. There are also 60 female senior registrars in surgery, about 8 per cent of the total.

Women are also shunning accident and emergency services, and make up only 13 per cent of all consultants in A&E units. But there are clear signs of growth in the numbers of female consultants in paediatrics - up from 110 (19 per cent) to 380 (34 per cent) over 10 years; in pathology - up from 300 (20 per cent) to 480 (28 per cent); and in psychiatry - up from 400 (22 per cent) to 680 (30 per cent).

Women also represented 53 per cent of senior registrars in paediatrics and 48 per cent in psychiatry.

The figures may put ministers under pressure to do more to encourage women into the spe-

cialties that they appear to avoid, particularly obstetrics and gynaecology where many patients prefer a woman. But ministers will point to the fact that higher rates of women in the junior grades suggest that the percentage becoming consultants will rise in the future.

The total number of female hospital medical staff has risen by 63 per cent since 1985 to 17,000 in 1995. As a proportion of all medical staff, they increased from 24 per cent to 31 per cent. The annual growth of all staff was 2.4 per cent but 5 per cent for women.

Although the proportion of women in each of the training grades has grown substantially, they formed a greater concentration in the more junior grades and higher still - 49 per cent - in entry to medical school.

Chiefs call for single mental health care fund

NICHOLAS TIMMINS
Public Policy Editor

A radical plan to merge health and social services funding for the mentally ill under a single chief executive was put forward yesterday to end the "confusion and instability" which surrounds services for the mentally ill.

The call from the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts (Nahat) is a large step towards the idea of a single mental health authority to control all spending on mental illness which was put forward earlier this year by John Major and revealed exclusively in this *Independent* earlier this month.

Yesterday's proposals stop short of that while saying that the idea "has some attractions". But the authority warned that if its blueprint for a new single budget fails then separate mental health authorities might have to be the answer.

Under the ideas, which were backed by the Sainsbury Cen-

tre for Mental Health, separate funds for care of the mentally ill would be brought into one, overseen by a committee drawn from both health and social services and with one chief executive or director for mental health spending. This approach is believed to be close to the thinking of Stephen Dorrell, the

Secretary of State for Health. But Philip Hunt, director of Nahat, said: "We are in the last chance saloon. Unless we can make joint working between health and local authorities a reality, the option of a new mental health authority would have to be brought into the arena once again."

Yesterday's report argues that creating such a body would take four years to achieve any benefits and would still leave in place some of the boundary problems between health, social and other services. The existing problems are so great however, that "the only option which can be ruled out is to do nothing".

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8

international

Big powers join forces against terror

MARY DEJEVSKY
Paris

Three days after a terrorist bomb scarred the centenary Olympics in Atlanta, the United States joined seven other world powers in agreeing on closer international co-operation to fight terrorism at a "terrorism summit" in Paris.

Ministers from what is now called the "Political Eight" — the Group of Seven industrialised countries plus Russia — pledged to fight "new terrorism with new methods", including the creation of an international directory of anti-terrorist expertise.

Among the 25 points in the document were calls for restrictions on refugees and asylum-seekers who have used their status to support terrorist activity, investigation of organisations, "including those with charitable, social or cultural goals", which might be used by terrorists as a cover and surveillance of bank accounts, money transfers and arms sales where terrorist involvement was suspected.

The document called for more research on methods to detect explosives "and other harmful substances", and for the establishment of international standards for marking explosives, so their origins may be traced. There was also a proposal for a new international convention on terrorism to cover areas not covered by previous international agreements.

Point six showed the security services are publicly entering the information age. It called on states to "note the risk of terrorists using electronic or wire communications systems and networks to carry out criminal acts ... and the need to find means ... to prevent such criminality".

The eight countries were divided, however, on whether sanctions should be applied, or extended, to countries which are regarded as supporters of terrorism, so that subject was left off the agenda. The US has legislation in progress that would penalise third countries trading with those Washington defines as "terrorist states". These include Iraq, Libya, Iran and Sudan. The European Union and Canada are bitterly opposed to the US measures and are considering retaliation.

The omission of the "terrorist states" from the agenda represented a diplomatic defeat for the US. But it was clearly the



Found: Salvage workers near New York winching up a section of the fuselage from TWA Flight 800, supposedly sabotaged 14 days ago

Photograph: Mark Lennihan / AP

price of gaining a united front on the issue of terrorism in general. In a sign of what the US was up against, the German Foreign Minister, Klaus Kinkel, insisted just before the meeting began that Germany would continue a "dialogue" with Iran. Yesterday's meeting had been agreed at the annual

summit of the G7 in Lyons in May, which took place in the shadow of the bombing of US troops in Saudi Arabia. Hosted by the G7 chairman, France, it was attended by foreign and interior ministers from the eight countries and by some intelligence chiefs. One remarkable aspect of the gathering was the

presence of the head of the Russian security service, General Nikolai Kovalev, sitting alongside people who would have been his sworn enemies less than a decade ago.

The weight and likely effectiveness of the document is hard to gauge. The 25 points are all couched as exhortations —

"We call on all states to ...". With few exceptions, they amount to little more than an extension to eight countries of the collaboration which is already in operation bilaterally between many of them.

Altering the terms of refugee or asylum status is something that must be submitted to the

United Nations. The complexities of extradition are already familiar to Britons from the difficulties of extraditing IRA suspects from Ireland or the US. The borderline between preventive monitoring of telephones and bank accounts and invasion of privacy is notoriously hard to draw.

Some measures were agreed but for reasons of state secrecy do not figure in the 25 points. The French Interior Minister, Jean-Louis Debré, and the British Home Secretary, Michael Howard, confirmed that other measures were agreed but would not disclose details.

Essay, page 12

French move south to live in the sun

MARY DEJEVSKY
Paris

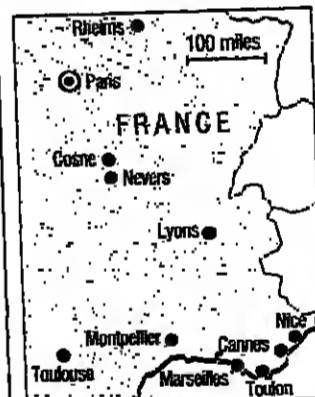
As French roads and railways move into the busiest season of the year, hope has emerged that the seasonal migration south might slacken in years to come — if only because more people will be living there already.

A new survey suggests that the French population is moving south to the sunbelt, despite the ingrained attachment of French people to their native regions. The study, published by the official statistics office, shows southern urban areas occupying the top five places in terms of growth by migration between 1982 and 1990, and the city of Montpellier topping the list. If migration and natural growth — births over deaths — are added together,

With a population of 210,000, Montpellier is the ninth largest city in France, but it is small in terms of conurbations because, unlike Paris, Lyons or Marseilles, it has swallowed up fewer of its neighbouring towns and villages. If the trend to growth continues, however, this may be just a matter of time.

Topping the list of urban areas whose population has increased over the period include Grasse, Cannes, Antibes and Toulon in the south-west, and Nice and Toulon, both on the Riviera. One explanation for the growth of Montpellier and Toulon is their orientation toward new-technology industries — Toulouse in aerospace and Montpellier in telecommunications.

This would not, however, explain the increase in and around Cannes, or in Nice, where jobs in traditional areas such as hotels and catering or the perfume industry have remained static. The explanation, at least in part, is likely to be quality of life — a conclusion supported by the fact that the people are moving away from Paris, Lyons, Rheims and from the biggest southern conurbation, Marseilles. All "top five" urban areas enjoy not just a mild climate, but easy access to attractive countryside, and winter and summer sports. One jaded commentator from one of the less favoured areas of the country had no doubt about the region's chief attraction. "We would love it if all those people leaving Paris or



Lyons decided to settle in Nîmes or Cosne (in central France) rather than in Cannes or Toulon ... But can we really offer them any good reason to prefer the countryside of the Mediterranean or the banks of the Garonne? That would take rather an effort."

Not all the moves are southward, however. The net population increase in the more desirable southern cities masks the fact that some make the move only to return north a few months, or years, later. The reason they give most often is "cultural differences": France's northerners can find the south infuriatingly slow and casual, dislike the pervasive clientelism of the Mediterranean and find themselves longing for a little more "Anglo-Saxon order".

They are in a minority, however. The rest find that the sun and the sea more than compensate for the irritations, and they will doubtless be sitting over their pastis at this very moment, complaining about the annual invasion of the tourists.

Atlanta reclaims Olympics from the bombers

PHIL DAVISON
Atlanta

They held bibles aloft, wore carnations in their hair and swayed to a hand-clapping revivalist proclamation of "the power of the dream". The people of Atlanta, the athletes and visitors "reclaimed" the centennial Olympics in typical Southern style here yesterday by flocking back to the site of Saturday's lethal bomb.

With an emotional memorial service for the two who died and prayers for the more than 100 wounded, the city reopened Centennial Park, where the pipe-bomb went off. Many visitors prayed for the victims of TWA Flight 800, seen here as

something of a "twin" tragedy, because it occurred on the eve of the Olympics. As they did so, rescuers off New York focused their search on the airliner's cockpit, which could hold the key to whether the plane was split in two by a bomb, a missile or an accidental explosion.

While the families of TWA victims still awaited a conclusion — by yesterday 161 bodies of the 230 passengers had been found — Atlantians and Olympic visitors saw yesterday's ceremony as the closure of their mourning and an assertion that terrorism had not succeeded. "We're here to proclaim a victory. We're here not to wallow in tragedy," said Andrew Young, ex-Atlanta mayor

and co-chairman of the Games' organising committee.

Reopening the park, a cultural, leisure and entertainment centre first opened in the heart of the city two weeks before the start of the games, was seen by Atlantians as symbolic affirmation that the bombers, as yet unidentified, had not won and that the games would go on. "We're here to celebrate a triumph of the human spirit," Mr Young said after the trumpeter Winston Marsalis opened the service with a rendition of *Just A Closer Walk With Thee*.

After guests of honour, including Juan Samaranich, the president of the International Olympic Committee, and the Rev Jesse Jackson, joined

hands in silent prayer, a gospel singer, Nita Whitaker, and the Georgia Mass Choir rocked the service to a conclusion with the song *Feed The Flame Forever Burn* ... *The Power of the Dream that brings us here*.

Before the memorial service, athletes mingled with tourists and young Christian groups who handed out carnations and sang hymns in Japanese, Arabic and other languages.

After the service, despite doubled security, and hovering helicopters, Centennial Park returned to its lively self, with beers, burgers and much swapping of American's beloved souvenir pins.

The Swatch stand, one of the official sponsors, was soon selling \$40 watches at the rate of one a minute.

Amid the joy, no one seemed upset that the popular hosts of the NBC's *Today* breakfast programme, Bryant Gumbel and Katie Couric, were broadcasting live from the exact grassy spot where the bomb went off.

Allowed back for the first time since the blast, reporters noted that the bomb had been left beside a carved stone monument with the inscription "A tribute to the 1996 Olympics. It was here in the summer of 1996 that the world witnessed the fulfilment of the Olympic ideal."

The FBI reported yesterday that it had questioned members of a right wing anti-government

group in the neighbouring state of Alabama known as the Alabama Militia or the Gadsden Minutemen after the name of an Alabama town.

Derrick Underwood, a post-tail 24-year-old militia member in the Alabama city of Birmingham — site of some Olympic events — said that he was one of three militia men questioned, but denied the group was involved.

FBI agents had told him he resembled a composite sketch drawn up from eyewitness accounts but not yet published. "I look like the standard dead-head you'd see at a Grateful Dead concert," Mr Underwood told reporters.

"It [the bombing] was a

crime. I am against committing crimes."

FBI agents said that they were not focusing on the Alabama group and that no arrests had been made.

The Gadsden Minutemen have in the past accused federal law-enforcement officers of entrapping them or planting evidence to discredit them.

The group is known to have had ties with a Georgia group called the Georgia Republic Militia, two of whose leaders have been facing trial since April on charges of plotting to blow up buildings using pipe bombs. A similar type of bomb, packed with nails, tore through Centennial Park in the small hours of Saturday.

Judges rebel against Chirac's choice for topcourt jobs

MARY DEJEVSKY
Paris

With a comprehensive reform of the French judicial system in preparation, senior magistrates yesterday approved the replacement of almost half the country's 35 appeal court judges, including a new chairman for the Paris appeal court.

The meeting of the magistrates' council, which was chaired by Jacques Chirac, was the President's second attempt in a month to obtain an agreement on the appeal court

appointments. Three weeks ago the magistrates — unusually — refused to endorse the government's nominee for Paris and accused Mr Chirac of reneging on election promises to end political interference in the judiciary.

The nominee in question was Alexandre Benmakhlouf, the head of the Justice Minister Jacques Toubon's private office. There was a widely held view that Mr Benmakhlouf's close connections to those in power — he was adviser to Mr Chirac when he was prime minister be-

tween 1986 and 1988 and when he was mayor of Paris — called into question his neutrality. It was also argued he had only six years' courtroom experience.

Mr Chirac and the government decided not to risk open conflict with the magistrates and the appointment was put on hold. In the meantime the government conducted a small reshuffle of Paris judicial posts that are — unlike the chairmanships of the appeal courts — in their gift, and made Mr Benmakhlouf the procurator-general of Paris.

While Mr Benmakhlouf's new job may not have been what he wanted, or what Mr Chirac and Mr Toubon wanted him to

have, it did not silence criticism. For the procurator-general is responsible for deciding whether criminal investigations are pursued, which judge conducts them and whether the case comes to court.

Moreover, the original objections derived not only from Mr Benmakhlouf's politics, but from the timing of his promotion, just as several corruption inquiries seem to be converging at the Paris town hall. It was the Paris town hall where Mr Chirac held sway before becoming president, where his close ally, Jean Tiberi, succeeded him as mayor, where the Prime Minister, Alain Juppé had been treasurer — and where

Mr Benmakhlouf spent three years as adviser.

Over the past year, Paris rate-payers have been transfixed by a scandals half-revealed in the press, but which the Justice Minister rejected as not warranting investigation. Almost the first was the revelation that Mr Juppé, while Paris city treasurer, had accommodated most of his adult family in elite, cut-price housing owned by the city. Close behind came similar revelations about Mr Tiberi.

The Tiberi scandal sprang back to life when a former deputy head of the housing department, himself under investigation for corruption, accused Mr Tiberi of having his son's city

flat refurbished at vast expense to the ratepayers and said Mrs Tiberi had supervised the work.

Details included descriptions of a vast roof terrace, marble flooring and paint colours which were changed several times at Mrs Tiberi's insistence. Mr Tiberi denied everything.

But in the course of that investigation, passed four weeks ago to another investigating judge and soon dropped, a search was conducted of the Tiberi's private Paris flat. The search aroused controversy because local police refused to accompany the investigating judge on the orders of their senior officer. It turned up an invoice for the sum of 200,000

(£25,000) francs to Mme Tiberi for work she had done for the neighbouring region of Essonne.

It then emerged the mayor of Essonne was a family friend and that the payment was for a 36-page report on developing Essonne's relations with francophone countries. It was so banal that Mrs Tiberi became the laughing stock of Paris.

Mrs Tiberi's payment and the refusal of the police to assist the search are now the subject of new inquiries. For many Paris rate-payers, weary of city scandals that run into the sand, Mr Benmakhlouf's appointment will be the test of Mr Chirac's pledge to take justice out of the politicians' hands.

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Unrest in Indonesia: Regime's stooge blamed for frustrating hopes that, after 30 years, a democracy had at last emerged

Figure of hate who is wary of winning

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY
Jakarta

You would never guess from meeting him that Dr Suryadi is the most hated man in Indonesia. As he receives visitors in his office at Jakarta's parliament building, he is geniality incarnate. He talks of his love of gardening ("Mangoes, melons, durians - I am thinking of turning it into a business").

He pool-pooches threats he has received over the phone ("My children treat them as a source of amusement.") and points out the photographs and mementoes he has accumulated as Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Here, reverently framed, is Dr Suryadi shaking hands with the Prince and Princess of Wales. Here, displayed a little

about him is that he is a willing puppet. It is not the cause he represents which inflamed Jakarta over the weekend but the hopes he frustrated - fragile hopes that after 30 years of growth and advancing national confidence, Indonesia might at last develop a democracy sophisticated enough to match its economic and diplomatic clout.

Six weeks ago, at the party congress, organised and manipulated by the government, Dr Suryadi was elected leader of the PDI, to replace Megawati Sukarnoputri, the incumbent chairwoman, who is everything Dr Suryadi is not - female, nationally popular, and of distinguished political stock (her father was Sukarno, Indonesia's first president).

As a political thinker, she lives under constraints, in a country where divergence from the government point of view can all too easily be painted as treasonable subversion.

But her stubborn campaign to hold on to her position as PDI leader and the sit-in organised by her supporters at PDI headquarters in central Jakarta have become symbols of resistance to the 30-year regime of President Suharto.

Although she has never said as much herself, many hoped Mrs Megawati would stand for president in 1998, by which time Mr Suharto will be 77. At the very least, it was believed that, rigged ballots notwithstanding, she would give the ruling Golkar party a run for its money in elections next year.

The government also seems to have believed this, which is why they elevated Dr Suryadi. He is perhaps the only opposition leader in the world who does not want his party to win in elections. "No, not yet," he says, fondling his bull. "It's very hard for the time being."

Indonesia has seen riots before but they had an ethnic or regional character - independence fighters in East Timor, or the resentful vandalism of rich Japanese companies in 1974. When police attacked and arrested Mrs Megawati's supporters on Saturday, the subsequent unrest was something new - a violent frustration out with an invader or a race, but with a political system. It may be reassuring to Dr Suryadi that, for all the odium he has attracted this week, it is nothing personal.

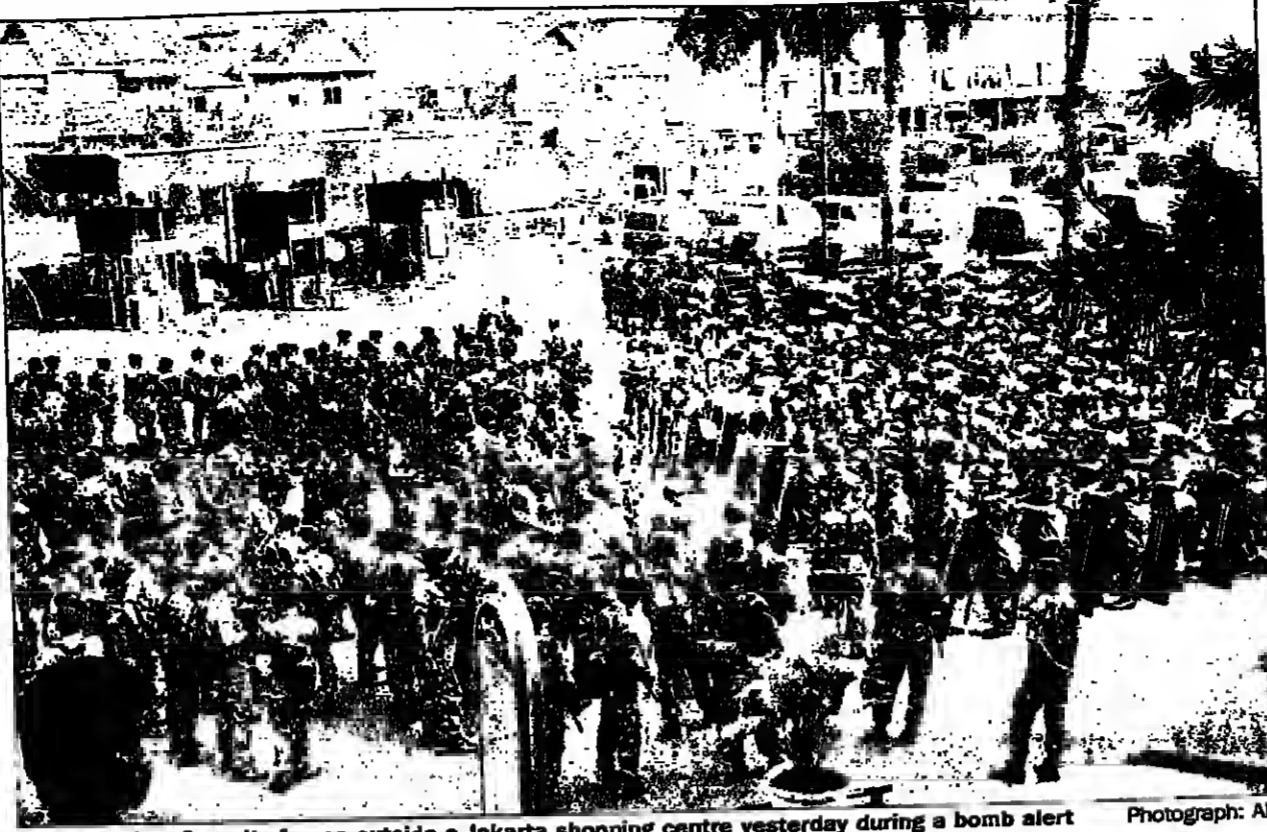


Mrs Megawati: Deposed as opposition leader

less prominently, is Dr Suryadi and the Pope. There, on the side table, is a finny model of a black bull, purchased by Dr Suryadi in Spain. But this is more than a cute knick-knack - the bull is the symbol of the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI), of which he is chairman.

After a few minutes of Dr Suryadi's gentle charm it is a shock to be reminded of this fact - for all his avuncular twinkleness and greco fingers, he does not strike one as leadership material. This view shared by rather a large number of people in Jakarta these days. Since Saturday, at least three people have died, dozens have disappeared, hundreds have been injured, and ten thousand have rioted in a desperate attempt to stop Dr Suryadi taking up his post as leader of the PDI.

To be fair, it is not all his fault. Although he has many enemies, the worst they can rationally say



Scare tactics: Security forces outside a Jakarta shopping centre yesterday during a bomb alert

Rioters to be shot on sight

Jakarta - The Indonesian military yesterday issued shoot-on-sight orders against rioters here, but denied they intended to introduce a night curfew, writes Richard Lloyd Parry.

Major-General Sutyoso, commander in the Indonesian capital, said the military would not tolerate any more disturbances and had ordered troops to open fire on anyone trying to disturb law and order.

Jakarta, on the face of it, was calm after the riots in recent days that left a dozen buildings burned out or vandalised. On Monday the Jakarta Stock Exchange suffered its biggest daily drop yet, of 3.6 per cent, and the value of the Indonesian rupiah plunged to a two-year low as offices and government ministries were evacuated in seven separate bomb scares.

Yesterday there were a couple of scares and the stock price slipped by a third of a per-

cent, with the rupiah up against the US dollar.

Nicholas Burns, the US State Department spokesman, said Washington was "seriously disturbed by the use of violence to end what had been a peaceful assembly. The United States... supports the rights of freedom of peaceful assembly, the freedom of speech, freedom of association, freedom of the press, respect for the rule of law and democratic processes. We call on the Indonesian government to ensure that these rights are protected in the future, and to guarantee that those arrested and detained in connection with these events are given due process of the law."

Officials of the opposition PDI said there might be more trouble tomorrow, when lawyers for Megawati Sukarnoputri, the ousted PDI head, will take her claim to leadership of the party to court.

Lawsuit spikes the guns of US Christian lobby

DAVID USBORNE
New York
TIM CORNWELL
Los Angeles

Long regarded as a formidable, if sometimes divisive, second column of the Republican Party, the Christian Coalition was yesterday accused by the US government of having illegally promoted candidates for election, ranging from former president George Bush to Oliver North and the Speaker, Newt Gingrich.

After a four-year investigation, the Federal Elections Commission announced a sweeping lawsuit against the group, founded by the television evangelist, Pat Robertson.

The decision is a boost for the Democratic Party and is certain to crimp the sway of the Coalition in this year's presidential elections.

The charges relate to the group's activities in the 1990, 1992 and 1994 congressional and presidential election seasons, which included the distribution of highly partisan voters guides, the holding of conferences and huge mail-shot and telephone-bank operations aimed at voters.

These activities have been branded as illegal by the government because they were not reported to the FEC, which they ought to have been.

And because the Christian Coalition is incorporated, it is being charged with making unlawful corporate contributions to its chosen candidates.

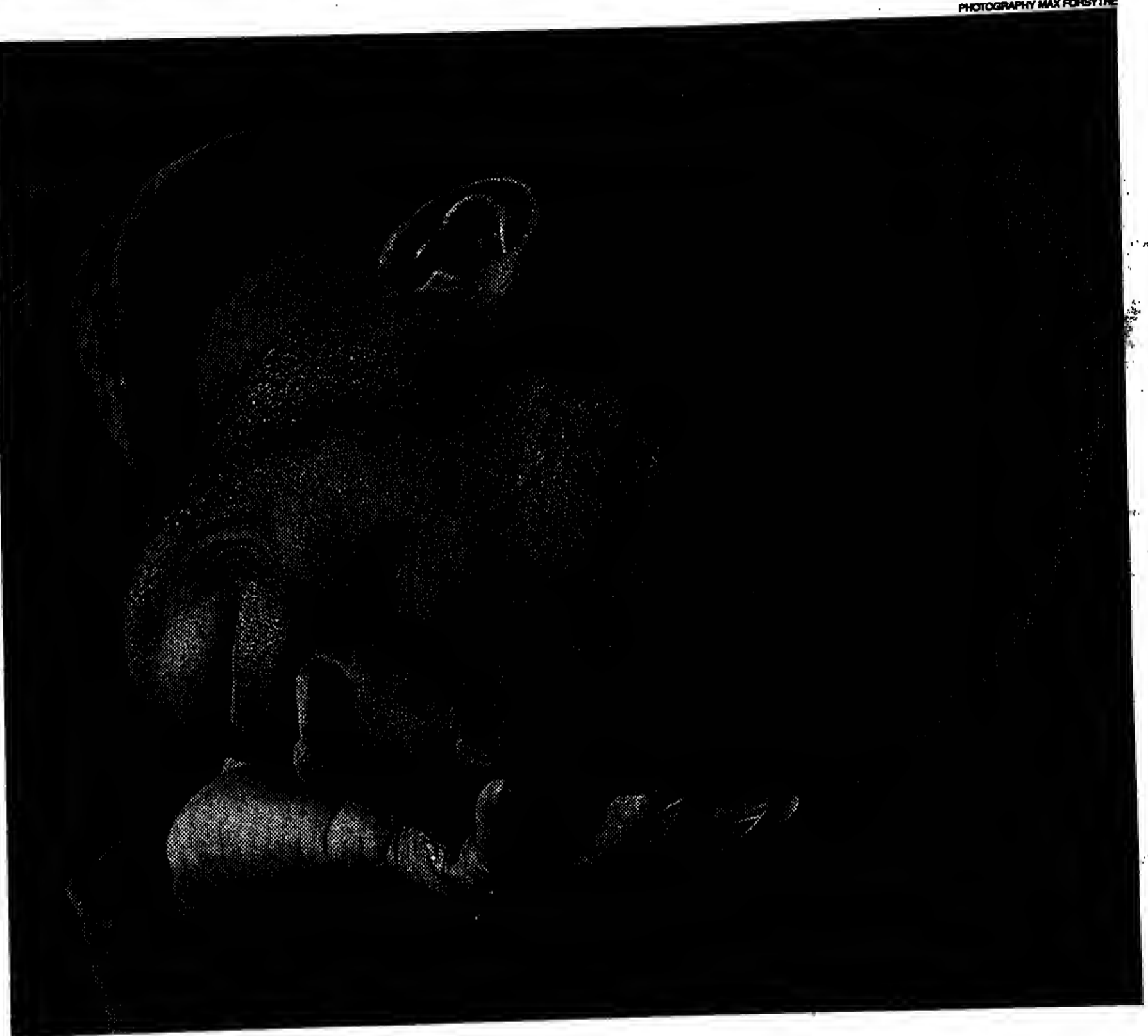
If it is found guilty, the Coalition could face heavy fines and strict controls on its role in future elections. Ralph Reed, its executive director, recently insisted he was "absolutely and totally confident that we are in full compliance" with election laws.

The Coalition's efforts have always been concentrated on those candidates it believes uphold "family values" and on opposing the right of women to seek abortions. In 1994 it famously championed Colonel North, who rose to fame in the Iran-Contra affair, in his unsuccessful senate bid in Virginia.

Among the FEC's findings are that in 1992 the organisation mailed 28 million voter guides urging support for Mr Bush over President Bill Clinton. In 1990 it allegedly made about 30,000 phone calls to voters in South Carolina to bolster the re-election campaign of Senator Jesse Helms. In the same year up to 10 million voter guides were mailed in seven states "in co-ordination, co-operation, and/or consultation" with the Republican Senatorial Committee, the FEC said.

While the charges are highly embarrassing to Republican Party officials, the high profile of the Christian Coalition and its insistence on opposing abortion has become a major hindrance to Bob Dole in his run at the White House.

He has been making stumbling efforts over recent weeks to play down the abortion issue and paint the picture of a more inclusive Republican party.



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Burundi leader blamed for 1993 coup

DAVID ORR
Bujumbura

The new President of Burundi, brought to power by the army last week, has been implicated in a coup attempt which led to the assassination of the country's first elected president.

The *Independent* has learned that a confidential United Nations document names the newly installed President Pierre Buyoya in connection with the failed coup which led to the killing of President Melchior Ndadaye and up to 100,000 Burundians in 1993.

"According to our information, Major Pierre Buyoya is mentioned in this report as the instigator of the partly failed coup of 1993", said a well-placed Belgian source. "We've been informed that the report is currently with United Nations Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in New York".

The findings of the UN report, soon to be released, could spark off chaos in the stricken central African nation. They will also have important repercussions for the international community's stand on the new regime. Despite initially con-

demning last week's coup, the West seems increasingly resigned to accepting Mr Buyoya, who lost power to Mr Ndadaye three years ago. Only the United States, whose ambassador has given sanctuary to the ousted President Sylvestre Ntibunganya, remains officially opposed to the new order.

"Buyoya certainly knew of a coup being planned in 1993", said a high-ranking foreign official in the capital, Bujumbura. "The timing of last week's coup was crucial. Those behind it wanted to act before the publication of the report and be-

fore any foreign intervention in the country's crisis".

If Mr Buyoya and his military backers are accused of having blood on their hands, any hope of their resolving the country's rising ethnic conflict will fade. The majority Hutu community feels it was deprived of power when the army, dominated by minority Tutsis, killed President Ndadaye and most of the government's Hutu ministers three years ago.

Many believe that the current crisis, which last week brought about President Ntibunganya's flight and the collapse

of the government, was precipitated by the forthcoming report. It is thought that Mr Buyoya and his military entourage decided to make a pre-emptive strike before the UN's findings were made public.

Only in the capital of Bujumbura, inhabited almost exclusively by Tutsis, has last Thursday's coup been widely welcomed. Even as the *putsch* was announced, fighting continued in the Hutu-dominated hinterland of the city.

The army's attempt to seize power in 1993 is seen as the beginning of the conflict which cul-

minated in the recent slaughter of 350 Tutsis by Hutu rebels in central Burundi. Having been nearly lynched by an angry Tutsi mob at the funeral of the massacre victims, President Ntibunganya, a Hutu, sought refuge in the American ambassador's residence in Bujumbura early last week.

The government, a shaky coalition of Hutus and Tutsis, disintegrated when the mainly Tutsi Uprona party withdrew confidence from the President.

Amid growing rumours of an army coup, terrified Hutu ministers sought the protection of

Western diplomats. As panic spread, the army announced former president Pierre Buyoya, a Tutsi, as interim leader and martial law was introduced.

Arusha (Reuters) — Burundi's new Tutsi military ruler Pierre Buyoya met East African leaders yesterday to seek support before a regional summit on the crisis in his country.

Ugandan officials said the retired major had met President Yoweri Museveni in Kampala before heading for Butiama, Tanzania, where he met the internationally-backed mediator Julius Nyerere. He was also ex-



Pierre Buyoya: Rounding up African support

pected to go to Arusha to meet the Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa who is hosting a regional summit to decide on a plan of action after President Buyoya's coup last week.

Pro-Taiwanese villagers fly to defence of their Hong Kong enclave



Protesters confront riot police yesterday during attempts by the authorities to break through barricades and clear the Rennie's Mill settlement. Photograph: Reuters

STEPHEN VINES
Hong Kong

Residents of Hong Kong's last pro-Taiwanese enclave, Rennie's Mill, made a last-ditch stand yesterday to prevent the demolition of their village, which once housed 30,000 former soldiers and their families who fought against the Com-

munists during the Chinese civil war. The Hong Kong government says it needs the land for developing a housing estate. But the villagers, most of whom have already been rehoused, believe their settlement is being destroyed to remove a political embarrassment before China resumes sovereignty over Hong Kong next year.

Last month they won a High Court ruling that forced the government to pay a higher level of compensation in recognition of unfair treatment.

Yesterday, violent resistance to attempts by the housing authorities at a final evacuation produced a two-week reprieve. Riot police were called in and more demonstrations are

threatened. But the veterans and families of the army which lost the civil war in China are likely to lose this battle, too.

Rennie's Mill was never a "normal" Hong Kong village. The proliferation of Taiwanese and Kuomintang flags quickly signalled the presence of something different.

The limited use of the local

Cantonese, in preference to northern Chinese dialects, was another sign of separation.

The omnipresence of pictures portraying the Kuomintang leader, Chiang Kai-shek, and the founder of the Chinese republic, Sun Yat-sen, were a clear sign that politics continued to play a role in village life.

From its earliest days Ren-

nie's Mill was affected by the stench of death and extinction.

The Chinese name for the village can be translated as "hanging neck ridge", leading to the popular myth that Alfred Rennie, the mill owner whose name was bestowed on the settlement, hanged himself.

In fact, he committed suicide by drowning.

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

European companies which co-operate with
Washington's tough new anti-Cuba legislation face fines under retaliatory measures tabled yesterday by the European Commission. Brussels hopes publication of the measures will be enough to persuade the Americans to back away from implementing provisions which allow US citizens to sue foreign companies for "trafficking" in property confiscated after the 1959 revolution in Cuba. It is also intended as a warning shot to Washington not to press ahead with similar legislation for Iran and Libya. President Bill Clinton suspended the right to sue under the Helms-Burton law earlier this month, but Sir Leon Brittan, the EU Commissioner for external relations, said a "sword of Damocles" hung over European companies and individuals. The measures, which include the right to counter-sue anywhere in the EU, follow agreement by European foreign ministers earlier this month on the need for swift retaliation. Katherine Butler — Brussels

The political future of India's former prime minister.
Narasimha Rao, looked uncertain after a judge rejected his appeal against a summons to testify in a corruption case. Mr Rao, 75, must now appear as a co-defendant in a case of conspiring to cheat an expatriate Indian, Lakshmi Pathak, of \$100,000 (£65,000). Mr Pathak claims to have paid Chandraswami, a guru associated with Mr Rao, \$100,000 in 1983 to win a state contract for paper pulp and newsprint. The businessman alleges that Mr Rao, who was foreign minister at the time, assured him at a meeting in a Manhattan hotel in 1983: "Your work will be done." The former prime minister denies this, saying he was not in New York on the dates mentioned by Mr Pathak. New Delhi — Reuters

Chechen rebels accused Russian secret services of
being behind an assassination attempt on their chief-of-staff and top military negotiator, Aslan Maskhadov, whose car came under fire on Monday. Mr Maskhadov was not hurt, but one of his bodyguards was wounded. The chief rebel spokesman, Movladi Udogov, said the body of one of the attackers was that of a Chechen man known as an "active collaborator with the Federal Security Service". Grozny — Reuters

Germany's highest court rejected a government
request to strip two convicted neo-Nazis of their constitutional right to participate in politics and stand for election. The Federal Constitutional Court ruled that Thomas Dienel and Heinz Reiss could not be deprived of these rights because the court which originally convicted them of inciting racial hatred had given them only suspended prison sentences. This meant they did not constitute the direct threat to Germany's democratic order that Bonn claimed, the judges argued. Karlsruhe — Reuters

A Cuban boxing coach defected at the Olympic Games
and is seeking political asylum in the US. Mariano Leyva, who is on loan to the Mexican boxing team, said in Miami Beach that he left Atlanta because he feared reprisals from Cuban security forces accompanying the Cuban Olympic team. He was the fourth Cuban to defect in a month. Miami Beach — Reuters

Indifference kills Russia's eastern dream

Taxes and mafia stifle Vladivostok's hopes of a boom, writes Phil Reeves

The threatened Siberian tiger, symbol of Vladivostok, may be hard to find anywhere near the far eastern Russian city these days, but white elephants are not. Passengers disembarking from the Trans-Siberian railway meet one face-to-face as they step out of their carriages.

With its ornate turrets and high-pitched roof, the city's station looks startlingly out of place as you step into the sunlight, joints creaking after days of hunching over a monotonous landscape in a fourth-berth

cabin. Across the bay, Russia's Pacific Fleet rusts at its moorings. Soviet-era apartment blocks rise along the crooked skyline around the sea's edge, pillars of squalor and utilitarian tedium.

Elderly Russian peasant women form a line along the pavement, selling spring onions, potatoes, cabbages, anything that can raise a rouble or two. A couple of drunks are slumped against one another on a bench.

cradling a bottle of cheap imported vodka. And yet there, in the midst of this clutter, stands what looks like a French mansion, topped by a large red sign bearing the city's name.

The intention is clear enough: it belongs to a vision in which passengers travel by rail across Russia's mighty girth—a seven-day journey of 5,600 miles, if you start in Moscow—in arrive in a graceful, modern metropolis which stands at the doorway to the Far East. Japan is an hour's flight away; China is (to the alarm of many Russians here) only three hours by road to the south. But that dream has yet to happen.

The railway has not yet brought the crowds of elegant travellers that were envisaged when it was inaugurated under the Tsars more than 100 years ago. Exotic this city may be; a glamorous international destination, it is not.

When I arrived, the power was off in much of Vladivostok, just as it had been for the previous two days. Delays in payments from clients, caused partly by Moscow's refusal to release subsidies, had prompted the state-run power company to turn off the lights for 24 hours at a stretch. The crisis has blighted the area for months but

it eased before June's presidential elections, as the authorities mounted a successful drive to secure support for Boris Yeltsin. Almost the day after polling, the problems began anew: now the city's 700,000 citizens feel betrayed.

Not far away from the station, up the hill, stands what looks like another white elephant, at least for the time being. The US Consulate is a tall, new red-brick building. It opened four years ago with a thriving commercial relationship in mind, a Pacific Rim partnership uniting the huge business machinery of California and the West Coast with the equally large unharmed opportunities in Russia's far east—from gold and diamonds to timber and fish.

shifts and seven-day weeks. Several international-class hotels have opened, including a Canadian establishment which was imported piece by piece from Canada.

But perhaps the city's most enthusiastic advocate is not a Russian, but a 25-year-old New Yorker, David Poritzky. "Just look at that," he said proudly, as he unfurled a large coloured banner in his basement office. "Vladivostok '96!" Mr Poritzky and another young American are staging an international music festival in the city in September, bringing together groups from the US Pacific north-west—particularly Seattle—and Russia.

He came to the city to work for an American food company that was trying to open a supermarket. The project foundered, yet he stayed—sufficiently undeterred by the problems to invite American performers in a 20,000-capacity stadium. "The mafia tends to dominate the headlines, but the real problem here is the tax inspector and official indifference," he said. "A lot of people look at the situation and say, 'shit, I'll move on to China or Korea.' And yet he adds, gazing lovingly at his banner, "It can be done here. The place can work." And that, for the new arrival, seems to be the definition of optimism.

That was at time of extravagant predictions of a boom in Vladivostok, which was closed to foreigners for 32 years because of its role as a Soviet naval base, but was thought to have great prospects as a shipment point between the markets of Europe and the workshops of Asia. But so far these expectations have fallen flat, spoiled by the bewildering array of taxes (there are at least 18 different levies), official indifference, unpredictable politics, tough

working conditions, and—inevitably—the long shadow of the mafia.

Exactly who the mafia are is a matter of debate in this unruly port city. I found a plentiful supply of muscle-bound thugs in a harbour-side bar (one of whom stole my wallet and air ticket), but these are almost certainly the small fry, the braven rather than the brains. The term embraces a loosely-defined multitude of sinners, from a coalition of old Soviet managers who have pooled together to buy a stake in newly privatised industries to small, turf-conscious gangs controlling the docks, smuggling weapons and drugs, and doing a roaring illegal trade in the cheap second-hand Japanese cars which fill the streets. There are several murders a day, and the occasional bombing. "There is a gang war out there," one local told me. "The police can do absolutely nothing about it."

Despite this, there have been some efforts to drag the place into the modern age. The Korean company, Hyundai, is building a \$52m (£34m) business centre, using Chinese and Korean labourers because, according to the management, Russians will not work long

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West Bank roads fuel Palestinian fears

Tel Aviv (AP) — Dismissing Palestinian outrage, Ariel Sharon, the Infrastructure Minister said yesterday that his plans to build two roads connecting Jewish settlements in the West Bank with central Israel would be a "real contribution to peace".

Mr Sharon announced his building plans a day after the Prime Minister, Benjamin

Netanyahu, said he supported the expansion of settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Palestinians, who want to establish a state in the West Bank and Gaza, say expanding settlements violates the Israel Palestine Liberation Organisation accords and could bring the peace process to a halt.

Freit Abu Melein, the Palestinian Justice Minister, pre-

dicted violence would follow if Mr Sharon was given a free hand on settlements.

Mr Sharon said the roads would ease traffic congestion and would be used by both Israelis and Palestinians. His plan calls for one road from the West Bank into northern Jerusalem and a second linking central Israel with Jewish settlements inside the West Bank.

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Why the Government should give us all a break

It's that time of year again. The kids and suitcases are stuffed in the car, set for the drive to the Dordogne. The malaria tablets are peeking from the rucksack, all prepared for the trek through Nepal. The latest Jilly Cooper and Joanna Trollope lie ready to be packed for the week in Devon, the Highlands, or the seaside resorts where Brits cavort in summer.

But not for everyone. One in nine employees in Britain won't get a paid holiday this year. Imagine it: not even a week spent lazing in the back garden — not without losing money, and risking losing the job altogether. For those of us who rely on our annual four to six weeks' leave to keep us sane, the thought of no break at all is horrifying. Yet as Labour's employment spokesman, Ian McCartney, pointed out this week, the Government's figures show that 11.1 per cent of the workforce — almost two and a half million people — are not entitled to paid holiday at all.

So who are these sun-starved people? Not surprisingly, two thirds of them are women, and three-quarters work part time. But even among full-time workers, there are 700,000 people without any paid holiday entitlement at all. They are less likely to be unionised too. And they are concentrated in hotels and catering, and in distribution. So take a second look at the chamber maids who clean up after you, and the waiters who bring you room service, in

the hotels you stay in this summer. The chances are that those who tend to the holidays of others may not be getting a paid break themselves.

Even worse, they are also often the lowest paid employees in the country, living on tight budgets, stuck in routine (but insecure) jobs — the very people who could do with a holiday most. For these are not successful self-employed businessmen or high-earning freelance professionals: the self-employed aren't included in these figures.

But there's no law against it. Companies can demand the hours they like, and the weeks they like, with no obligation to provide time off at all. In Britain, unlike in every other European country, there has never been a statutory entitlement to holidays.

When pressure grew for legislation during the Thirties, a committee chaired by one Lord Amulree, concluded that voluntary arrangements were best. The wages councils set the standards for many industries and by 1946, most companies agreed to provide workers with a week's paid holiday. The machines whirled to a halt, the chimneys went out, the factory sirens fell silent, and entire towns decamped to Blackpool for a week in August.

The idea of emerging from the holiday chalet to find the neighbours from home, or the colleagues from work happily ensconced in the villa next door, would horrify most of us today.

These are the people we want to escape, just for a week or two. But at least the workforce got their break.

For many British people one week grew to two, three, four, and sometimes six weeks off a year. On average we have far more time off than colleagues in the US or Japan. However, the abolition of the wages councils and the decline of unionisation have done much to undermine holidays altogether for the most vulnerable workers.

If the Government has its way, large sectors of employment will continue to be holiday-free zones. If implemented, the new European Working Time

Directive would compel employers to provide most of the workforce with three weeks' paid holiday a year (rising to four by the end of 1999). Because the directive counts under "health and safety" legislation rather than the Social Chapter, Britain can't simply opt out. Instead, we are resisting it through the courts.

The Government's case is simple: holidays should not be regulated by the state; employers and employees should negotiate appropriate arrangements themselves.

In practice that means people with economic power — either because

they have enough skills to be in demand, or because they have a union to represent them — can get the four to six weeks they want. But low-skilled workers who are easily replaced by others desperate for their jobs have no bargaining power, and get little holiday as a result.

And there's the rub. So long as there are people who are willing to work without holidays (because they can get nothing better) employers will be able to take advantage of it, save money from it, and take more people on because of it. That's the way markets work. From the Government's point of view, more people in work without holidays is better than fewer people in work with time off.

But the Government's position is extremely weak. For a start, it is hard to believe that the overall level of employment in the economy will be badly affected by making employers pay an extra three weeks' wages to their staff, given the pitifully low wages that most of these people earn. Moreover if the Government really does believe that a glut of unskilled workers competing for jobs is keeping holiday entitlement so low, then it should be trying to reduce the over-supply — by providing people with the training and education to get better jobs.

Either way, the Government has a responsibility to act. In a civilised society, people should have the right to a

rest once in a while. Holidays are beneficial for health, essential for serenity, and extremely good for family life, too.

The American constitution enshrines the principles of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness". For most of us these days, the pursuit of happiness includes our annual break. The Government should back down and give everyone some time off.

A queen without the Crown?

The Press Complaints Commission has upheld the Queen's complaint against *Business Age*, which put her personal wealth at £2.2bn. So is she worth only the £158m guesstimated by the palace two years ago, plus inflation, making her, relatively speaking, a poor queen? If we accepted that, we would also be nodding through one of the profoundest mysteries in that labyrinth of two-way mirrors known as the British Constitution. What the Queen is saying is that most of those pictures, land and palaces belong not to "me" but to the Crown. She only has squatter's rights. But, ahem, who in this land of absolute property rights owns "the Crown"? The Crown has servants. The Crown has, apparently, at least £2bn property. But to whom does it all belong?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bullet wounds from Labour's backbenchers

Sir: For someone like me who is working hard to make sure Labour wins the next general election, the increasingly disloyal contributions from Labour MPs like Ken Livingstone are like bullet wounds from friendly fire ("Rebels subvert two-party campaign", 30 July).

Mr Livingstone's actions bring into question how much dissent should be tolerated from a member of a political party before their membership is questioned. Of course differences of opinion exist in all parties, and should be welcomed, but there is a huge gulf between expressing a differing view and acting in a way which is clearly serving to damage the Party.

Mr Livingstone cannot seriously claim his disloyal diatribes are intended to influence any debate within the Labour Party. In reality, they represent another round of political terrorism in Ken Livingstone's campaign of guerrilla warfare.

Mr Livingstone is not brave enough to put his ideas to the test in democratic elections or accept the democratic wishes of others. He did not dare to stand in the Shadow Cabinet elections which he is widely condemning. He did not even stand for leader or deputy leader. Yet he regularly undermines these democratically elected representatives, who are pursuing a policy agenda supported by the overwhelming majority of Party members. And his sniping not only affects Mr Livingstone's own political standing, it also affects the standing of the Party across the country.

The time for internal battles is in the past. The Labour Party should give Ken an ultimatum: either he renounces his campaign of guerrilla warfare, or his role within a democratic party should be brought into question.

MATT CARTER
Vice of York Labour Party
York

Sir: There are millions of people in Britain who are desperate for a Labour government, and not just those death-wish Tory MPs who want to be their party's next leader ("Labour MPs seek 'independence'", 29 July). But the next general election is far from a foregone conclusion for Tony Blair.

With ten months to go, and the well-funded Tory campaign not even started yet, Labour's lead could easily be whittled away by lies and smears.

I know that I speak for many inside and outside the Labour Party when I make a plea for the carping and criticising from Labour backbenchers to come to an immediate halt. The constant barrage of complaints does their case little credit, and merely provides succour to the Conservatives.

They would do well to remember that many people are yet to decide how to vote in the next general election. Many, after years of being terrified and contemptuous of the Labour Party, are considering voting for us for the first time. Every time one of the Campaign Group runs to the tabloids to rubbish a Labour leader or policy, another such voter returns to the Tory fold. Now is the time for unity and common endeavour against the Tories, not slagging from the sidelines.

If Labour misses the best chance of victory for 20 years because of a handful of malcontents shouting



Dial 'M' for Murder

their mouths off, millions of Britons will never forgive us.

PAUL RICHARDS
Labour's prospective parliamentary
candidate for Billericay
London W6

Sir: Perhaps the hot weather has affected a few dissident Labour MPs, but talk of a "declaration of independence" is absurd (report, 29 July).

The process of modernisation within the party has resulted in an unprecedented level of open and democratic participation. The *Road to the Manifesto* is but the latest example of involving party members in policy discussion. And the majority of members are full-square behind the changes initiated by Tony Blair.

But we must be clear that the Labour Party is not a talking-shop. It is a serious political party preparing for government. Self-indulgent MPs who cannot resist having their egos massaged by an attentive media should recognise the distinction between healthy debate and internal dissent.

DAVID JOHN COLLINS
Groombridge
Kent

Oxbridge legacy of resistance

Sir: A practising manager, I recently completed a three year fellowship in Cambridge aimed at introducing senior manager courses there. I carry the scars to prove it. Oxford should probably accept Wafic Said's generous donation (recent letters), but there should be no doubt that putting business studies (or, at Cambridge, management studies) into the

international league along with other disciplines takes more than money.

Sir Paul Judge's benefaction to Cambridge has produced a splendid new building but Oxbridge's legacy of resistance means that what goes on inside will not compare with the best from established schools for some considerable time, and maybe never will, despite the best endeavours of a committed staff. There are three main reasons:

1. First-league academics choose to go to established institutions over an embryonic one whose existence remains controversial.

2. Faced with sceptical academic peers, staff pursue research interests which are ultra pure — and of marginal use for business — and teach accordingly; and they are not comfortable with experienced practitioners.

3. In present circumstances the business students presenting themselves often do so just because of the Oxbridge ethos: those are unlikely to be the mainstream achievers in business, who seek out the sharper environments of a Harvard or Stanford.

If business is to be persuaded that the schools in Oxford and Cambridge are to be more than exotic and largely irrelevant boutiques there needs to be a positive determination on the part of their academic bodies that it should be otherwise, and not just a consensus to take the money.

BARRY WELCH
Little Baddow,
Essex

Dangers of home rule for Scotland

Sir: The Tories have treated the Scots with contempt for the past 17 years, so one has to take Ian Hamilton's reports (30 July) of the hatred felt in Scotland towards them seriously. What I find more difficult to understand is the wish of many Scots to leave the British Union in order immediately to join themselves directly to the larger European Union.

If his analogy with the Republic of Ireland is correct, the motivation seems to be one of money rather than independence. But are Scots seriously arguing that they have done worse out of the British Union than an independent Irish Republic has within the European Union?

Granted that the Irish Republic has grown rapidly in the last few years, it has to be recognised that this was from a much lower base than Scotland and forgets the decades of economic squalor, and consequent emigration, which descended on the Irish Republic after 1922. It also ignores the fact that as the Irish Republic becomes richer, and as more poor members from Eastern Europe join the EU, the present gravy train, as perceptive Irish commentators are starting to realise, will significantly reduce.

The Scots have every right to feel aggrieved with the present government. However, to embark in a fit of rage on the project of creating a sovereign Scottish Parliament, which Mr Hamilton rightly recognises will change the nature of the British Union

irrevocably, may well not be in the longer-term interests of either the Scots or the rest of Britons.

With the Tories out of power, he should not assume that there is not an intelligent "left case" to be made for the union in a referendum campaign. Indeed, some of us have already started to argue for a Union revitalised through returning real power to new forms of local government. A new Union which does not carry the very real dangers of turning Britain into a shouting match between nations and provinces — or worse. Northern Ireland provides a grim warning to all those starry-eyed advocates, like Ian Hamilton, of home rule.

SIMON PARTRIDGE
London N2

Lessons for BT

Sir: I read that BT has again been making "genuine mistakes" in giving misleading information to customers ("Which?" takes BT to Office", 30 July).

In the 11 years since BT was privatised, the company has consistently been the subject of complaints about anti-competitive behaviour. Every time, it dismisses the allegations as being the result of human errors, while Ofcom promises to investigate another empty stable.

It is a pity, given that such accusations come so regularly, that the job of policing BT is left to *Which?* researchers. Ofcom needs to do a lot more to see that BT really does learn its lessons.

ROBERT STEPHENS
Worcester Park, Surrey

Farmers not to blame for BSE

Sir: Your correspondent H C Grant, described as a neurologist and not a doubt the beneficiary of many years scientific training, adopts the hysterical language of the propaganda, in a letter on the origins of BSE (25 July). The phrase "...our cattle were forced to swallow dead sheep" conveys an absurd picture of Farmer Giles shovelling sheep carcasses into the food-troughs of his milking cows and holding a shotgun to their heads until they managed to ingest them.

Let it be clearly understood that the complex contents of ruminant rations cannot be individually recognised or identified by the person feeding them, in good faith, to their livestock. Rations are conventionally sold by the feed manufacturers in the form of homogeneous pellet-shaped pieces, and although livestock farmers have sought for years more precise information on the nature of feed contents, the feed manufacturers have refused to reveal these, and the Government has refused to make them do so.

H C Grant's personal hypothesis on the history of CJD, "contracted by susceptible humans from ovine spinal cords", confines itself to a local and current context and fails to consider either the incidence of CJD in other societies, where sheep brains and spinal cords are eaten routinely with the rest of the flesh, or in this country in former, less squeamish, times. Scrapie is far more universal than H C Grant allows and than most countries will admit.

J E BRADSHAW
Stratford-upon-Avon
Warwickshire

Don't deny the ageing process

Sir: Glenda Cooper's upbeat article ("Middle-aged women? Not any more", 29 July) on the demise of middle-age, as we all stay young until — whoops — we're suddenly old, was a beguiling read. But it is a pity that the *Independent* has joined the current fashionable-think determinedly insisting that if we look, feel and behave as we did in earlier years, then we are still young. In fact we are not.

Chronological destiny is a fact of life and there are very real issues around ageing which we do better to face than to deny. Researching my book on mid-life, I interviewed 150 people in their middle years and read extensively around the subject, and it became very clear to me that we do well to acknowledge middle-age as an important transitional stage, as Eric Erikson, Jung and a host of other great thinkers have posited. Part of this would involve boasting, rather than disguising the fact, that we are mature and have, hopefully, some life skills, wisdom and savoir-faire to show for it.

Keeping ourselves animated, in good nick, and feeling able to regard the middle years as Ogden Nash did when he observed "middle-age is merry and I love to lead it", is all a thoroughly good thing, but to insist that being eternally young is the only valuable thing we achieve is another form of damaging ageism.

ANGELA NEUSTATTER
London N5

Prostitution and prudery

Sir: Thanks for the prominence that the *Independent* gave to the issue of legalised prostitution from shared premises, raised by Keith Hellawell, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire Police ("Police chief says legalise brothels", 29 July). This contrasts with the cowardly silence of MPs.

Most other countries have devised workable and civilised alternatives, like the red light districts operating happily in Amsterdam or the legal shared brothels in Sydney, which reduce kerb-crawling and promote health and safety for both prostitutes and their clients alike.

Prostitution is symptomatic of a hypocritical, sexist and repressed society and is unlikely to disappear overnight. The negative response of Sir Ivan Lawrence, Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee of MPs that "...we should hold on to the barriers for as long as we can" speaks of the bigots who put their Victorian prudery before health and safety, and who are usually the first to complain when squalor emanates from the very underworld that they have created.

Prostitution reform is well overdue and until the laws are changed, sex-workers should not be harassed.

TIM SUMMERS
Chair
Sexual Freedom Coalition
London W1

Hotlining cars

Sir: Your report (29 July, Significant Shorts) that the RAC has set up a car-sharing hotline, to cut down the number of vehicles travelling into London on Tube-strike days. Why only on Tube-strike days?

TIM EVANS
London E5

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number.
(Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

The rise of the DIY terrorist

By Christopher Bellamy

Yesterday, the leading Western nations and Russia adopted 25 measures to combat terrorism and appealed to other states to join in a global fight against "political violence". It sounded like a tough response to a problem plaguing these governments. But the measures are unlikely, in themselves, to solve the problem.

The reason is that "political violence", as we have traditionally understood it, is no longer the problem. The World Trade Centre bombing in 1993, the use of nerve gas in Japan last year, the Oklahoma bombing, the attack on TWA 800 (if it was a bomb), and the Atlanta outrage all give the same message: terrorism has changed.

Yesterday's measures, agreed by foreign and interior ministers of the G7 nations including Britain, set out improvements to transport safety, increased intelligence co-operation and plans to investigate terrorists' abuse of charities and other front organisations.

All these measures are welcome. But the G7 states and Russia, like most generals, are still preoccupied with fighting the last war. They have not addressed the main issue: the changed motivation behind terrorist attacks.

Instead of pursuing national self-determination, albeit by unconventional means, the ends of these groups are different, often undefined. And terrorist attacks, far from seeking to draw attention to a cause, or even elicit sympathy and support, are motivated only by vengeance and envy. That means they come without warning, and anonymously. That also makes them far more effective, and far more difficult for governments to cope with or to halt.

The irony is that the root cause of this new terrorism is an increasing divide between rich and poor, and consequent ris-

ing resentment against local elites and foreign exploitation. Anger at Western economic dominance has fuelled a revival of religious - notably Islamic - extremism. It is precisely the type of issue that G7 summits are best qualified to deal with. Yet the G7 meeting has not addressed these problems.

In the 1970s, when the study of terrorism emerged as an academic discipline, conventional war between nuclear

The more conventional terrorist organisations, such as the IRA, are more vulnerable to penetration by intelligence agencies than the smaller, more separate cells of the new-style organisations. Penetrating extremist cults, such as the Aum Shinri Kyo cult in Japan or extremist organisations in the mountains of Montana, is more difficult.

The new-style terrorists are therefore "anarchists", in the true sense. Most of the 19th century terrorist groups, including so-called anarchists and nihilists, had political aims, albeit poorly defined. Their successors in the 1990s do not.

The new-style terrorist groups can only be understood in terms of where they came from - Hizbollah, from the refugee camps in Gaza, Hamas, from southern Lebanon. Like all the new terrorist groups, they recruit from the marginalised and the dispossessed.

Algeria, where an estimated 30,000 have died in fighting, is perhaps the archetype: a very divided society, with a repressive government, which has led to a radical response by Islamic fundamentalists. And the conflict has spilled over, into France.

Professor Paul Rogers, of the University of Bradford, is one of a number of experts who believe that inequality in the distribution of wealth, both within countries and between them, is to blame. The poorest will always be the most resentful and the most easily inspired to react against perceived threats, such as immigration. Islamic fundamentalism, reacting against what they see as Western cultural and economic imperialism, and poor whites in the southern and mid-western states of the US, both fit the bill.

Terrorist organisation has changed along with motivation. No longer are big state

Terrorist supplies available at a store near you...

- Ammonium nitrate fertiliser;
- Weedkiller: mix with sugar;
- Gas cylinders: pack around your explosive to give enhanced explosive effect;
- Fireworks, shotgun shells for primer;
- Ingredients for pesticides: used to make nerve gas;
- Mercury tilt switches: from refrigerators (also try local rubbish dump);
- Plastic bags, dustbins, for encasing the device;
- Steel mesh, nails, nuts and bolts: they disintegrate into shrapnel, causing more damage to victims;
- Drainpipes, beer cans (to make mortars);
- Home brewing kit: for developing bacteria. Such biological weapons are highly unpredictable.

NOTE: For more details, see the Internet



Terrorism old and new, from the early anarchists (above) to the Oklahoma bomb (below). The modern bomber appears to have abandoned any recognisable political aim
Main photograph: Hulton Getty

sponsors or even extremist leaders directly linked with the people who carry out the attacks. The World Trade Centre bombing on 4 March 1993 is a prime example. Although the details are still unclear, it appears to have been masterminded by Ramzi Ahmad Youssef, a Palestinian travelling on an Iraqi passport, who used four dopes from an Islamic extremist group to plant the bomb. However, they needed spiritual guidance provided by Sheikh Abdul Rahman, an Egyptian mullah also resident in New York.

The attack was awesomely ambitious, and its scale suggests total disregard for human life. The 900kg bomb, using home-made nitro-glycerine to detonate a main charge of fertilizer, was surrounded by gas cylinders to enhance its effect. The idea was to collapse one of the two towers of the World Trade Centre into the other. Fortunately, the abutment against which it was placed was sufficiently robust to withstand the blast, although it came close to collapsing a nearby 26-storey hotel. Had the attack gone as planned, 50,000 people in the two huge towers could have been killed.

Terrorist attacks on airliners over major cities are designed to have similar effects. More conventional terrorist groups

still limit their attacks, because to kill too many is seen as counter-productive. In contrast, the new-style extremists, motivated only by hate, know no bounds. The nerve gas attacks on the Tokyo underground were limited because the gas did not disperse as intended: had it done so, thousands might have been killed.

Splitting terrorist groups from their sponsors has made them far more difficult to counter. And a small terrorist cell with no political aim needs no sponsor. Whereas traditional revolutionary war theory, as preached by Mao, described guerrillas as fish swimming in the sea of the population, these fish need no sea. They are discrete, and discrete. The traditional approaches, through the exchange of intelligence, proposed at G7, and of winning the populace's hearts and minds so that they will turn in the terrorists will not work so well. A new approach is required, which will depend more and more on technological surveillance.

If there is any comfort, it is that terrorist cells need to keep their operations as low-tech as possible in order to avoid detection. The IRA, with its network of quatermasters and underground arsenals, is capable of using drainpipes and sheet metal to manufacture mortars

and the bombs fired from them. The more isolated terrorist cells of the future will stick to the simplest devices - though they may still be devastatingly effective.

Any competent chemist can make mustard gas or the simpler nerve gases from agents commonly available from chemical companies. The main ingredients of home-made explosives - ammonium nitrate and fuel oil, sodium chlorate and sugar - are easily available. Mercury tilt switches can be found in old refrigerators.

Terrorists wanting to effect maximum damage might be tempted to build chemical weapons or, even easier, biological ones, which could be grown with the aid of a home brewing kit.

Most terrifying of all is the anonymity of the new-style organisations. Nation states cannot retaliate against a sponsor state, because there is none, and cannot explain who is responsible to their people, because they do not know. Whereas the political "terrorist" organisations we have come to know aimed to build something - however perverted and wrong they may have been - the new ones aim only to destroy. They are true terrorists. Their only aim is terror. The G7 countries have not begun to address that problem.



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If you understand the ad, the job's yours

"Have you been an agent for customer-driven cultural change in a major plc?"

This was a question that leapt out at me from last Thursday's Appointments section in the *Times*, and even now, a week later, I still don't know what it means.

I had another look at the ad. It had been placed by a firm called Philip Rice Partnership. The position advertised was for Director for Customer Care, Electronics Sector. The post was explained thus:

"Our client is a leading international electronics Group committed to long-term growth through innovative technologies and the highest standards of quality and customer service. In order to more fully appreciate customers requirements the company recently commissioned a major survey of customer opinion and the results will form the basis for a substantial cultural change. A Director for Customer Care is required to work closely with

senior management in driving this high profile programme. The successful candidate, who will report to the Group Chief Executive, must have played a key role in a major customer driven, cultural change project."

And in case you haven't picked up the idea by now that they are serious in their requirements, they go on to specify that the candidate must be: "A marketing orientated professional obsessed with providing the highest standards of customer satisfaction."

Now, there are probably readers out there who are nodding along with this like people tapping their feet to Schoenberg, but I have to say that to the ordinary unemployed arts graduate on the Clapham omnibus, or indeed to me, this means nothing. Actually, what he or she will probably notice first is the strangely flawed grammar of the ad. Philip Rice's use of the hyphen is very capricious. If you are going to hyphenate long-term in "long-term



Miles Kingston

growth", than surely you should hyphenate "customer-driven" and "marketing-orientated"? But they have done one and not the other. The capital letter on Group in the first line of the announcement is unnecessary. Indeed, it is wrong. The sentence says that the "client is a ... group". The client cannot be a Group till it has been named. While we are on the pedantry trail, there should be an apostrophe after customers (in "customers requirements") but there isn't. I have never understood why things are orientated, when they can be simply oriented. And I haven't even mentioned

the split infinitive, which I think can be stylish, though not as here, in "in order to more fully appreciate customers requirements..."

However, none of this gets us any nearer to the meaning of the ad. Nor does examination of the words. The ad is full of meaningless modern jargon phrases like "high profile", "identify a strategy", "innovative", and so on, but the word that always puzzles me and which turns up a lot here is "drive". When a thing is customer-driven, what does it mean? Does it mean that you let the customer take it over and run it? Does it mean that you consult the customer to find out what he wants and then give it to him good and hard? Does it mean that you find ways of making the customer happy about what you are already doing?

To put it another way, what is the difference between customer-driven and customer-led? Is there a difference? Is it like having the engine at the back or at the front? If the ad

said, "Have you ever been an agent for customer-led cultural change in a major plc?", what would it mean? It's quite important, because the successful candidate, the new Director of Customer Care, will have to drive the project. Not lead the project, but drive it. It doesn't say where or how fast, just drive it. It will, in the language of the ad, be a Director of Customer Care-driven project. And what is this "cultural change" business? Does that mean getting all the employees going to the opera or reading Booker prize-winners? Well, no, of course it doesn't, but what does it mean? I don't know why I am bothering. Considering that the winner will have to be "a marketing orientated professional obsessed with providing the highest standards of customer satisfaction" - that is to say, someone who is certifiably round the bend - the ad is not aimed at someone with all his marbles in the first place. Perhaps it's a good thing not to understand it, after all.

0345 660560

Foreign Exchange Rates									
STERLING					DOLLAR				
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months		Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	D-MARK Spot
US	15564	5-3	5-2		1000				06769
Canada	23076	11-3	10-7		1000	2-1	2-0		09297
UK	10000	10-1	10-0	1000	1474	28-34	24-81		10000
Germany	78200	10-1	10-0	1000	1000	75-46	1000		10000
France	10000	10-1	10-0	1000	1000	75-46	1000		10000
Italy	25755	40-63	40-30	1000	1000	75-46	1000		10000
Japan	16736	10-1	10-0	1000	1000	75-46	1000		10000
ES	12705	5-1	4-1	1000	1000	75-46	1000		10000
Belgium	42406	5-1	4-1	1000	1000	75-46	1000		10000
Denmark	10000	10-1	10-0	1000	1000	75-46	1000		10000
Sweden	10000	10-1	10-0	1000	1000	75-46	1000		10000
Norway	10000	10-1	10-0	1000	1000	75-46	1000		10000
Switzerland	10000	10-1	10-0	1000	1000	75-46	1000		10000
Australia	10000	10-1	10-0	1000	1000	75-46	1000		10000
New Zealand	10000	10-1	10-0	1000	1000	75-46	1000		10000
South Africa	10000	10-1	10-0	1000	1000	75-46	1000		10000
Spain	10000	10-1	10-0	1000	1000	75-46	1000		10000
Portugal	10000	10-1	10-0	1000	1000	75-46	1000		10000
OTHER SPOT RATES									
Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar				
Argentina	15567	10000	Nigeria	10000	10000				
Australia	10000	10000	Oman	10000	10000				
Canada	10000	10000	Pakistan	10000	10000				
China	21576	10000	Philippines	10000	10000				
France	10000	10000	Portugal	10000	10000				
Germany	10000	10000	Russia	10000	10000				
Greece	10000	10000	South Africa	10000	10000				
India	10000	10000	Switzerland	10000	10000				
Indonesia	10000	10000	Thailand	10000	10000				
Japan	10000	10000	UK	10000	10000				
Korea	10000	10000	USA	10000	10000				
Malaysia	10000	10000							
Philippines	10000	10000							
Portugal	10000	10000							
Russia	10000	10000							
South Africa	10000	10000							
Switzerland	10000	10000							
Thailand	10000	10000							
UK	10000	10000							
USA	10000	10000							
Tourist Rates									
£ 1 buys		DM 1 buys		DM 1 buys		DM 1 buys		DM 1 buys	
Australia (Aust)	1975	1975	France (France)	72650	New Zealand (NZ)	21800	Switzerland (Sw)	16970	
Australia (NZ)	57200	Germany (West)	22370	Portugal (Port)	25000	Switzerland (Sw)	16970		
Belgium (Bel)	40000	Greece (Greece)	10000	Spain (Spain)	10000	Switzerland (Sw)	16970		
Canada (Can)	10000	Hong Kong (HK)	11900	Switzerland (Sw)	16970	Switzerland (Sw)	16970		
China (China)	21576	India (India)	10000	Switzerland (Sw)	16970	Switzerland (Sw)	16970		
France (France)	72650	Indonesia (Ind)	10000	Switzerland (Sw)	16970	Switzerland (Sw)	16970		
Germany (West)	22370	Japan (Japan)	169000	Switzerland (Sw)	16970	Switzerland (Sw)	16970		
Greece (Greece)	10000	Malaysia (Mal)	10000	Switzerland (Sw)	16970	Switzerland (Sw)	16970		
Hong Kong (HK)	11900	Philippines (Phil)	10000	Switzerland (Sw)	16970	Switzerland (Sw)	16970		
India (India)	10000	Portugal (Port)	25000	Switzerland (Sw)	16970	Switzerland (Sw)	16970		
Indonesia (Ind)	10000	Spain (Spain)	10000	Switzerland (Sw)	16970	Switzerland (Sw)	16970		
Japan (Japan)	169000	Switzerland (Sw)	16970	Switzerland (Sw)	16970	Switzerland (Sw)	16970		
Malaysia (Mal)	10000	Thailand (Thai)	10000	Switzerland (Sw)	16970	Switzerland (Sw)	16970		
Philippines (Phil)	10000	UK (UK)	10000	Switzerland (Sw)	16970	Switzerland (Sw)	16970		
Portugal (Port)	25000	USA (USA)	10000	Switzerland (Sw)	16970	Switzerland (Sw)	16970		
Spain (Spain)	10000			Switzerland (Sw)	16970	Switzerland (Sw)	16970		
Switzerland (Sw)	16970			Switzerland (Sw)	16970	Switzerland (Sw)	16970		
Thailand (Thai)	10000			Switzerland (Sw)	16970	Switzerland (Sw)	16970		
UK (UK)	10000			Switzerland (Sw)	16970	Switzerland (Sw)	16970		
USA (USA)	10000			Switzerland (Sw)	16970	Switzerland (Sw)	16970		
Interest Rates									
UK		Germany		US		Japan			
Bank	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
Call	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
Overnight	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
3 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
6 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
12 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
18 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
24 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
30 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
36 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
42 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
48 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
54 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
60 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
66 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
72 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
78 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
84 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
90 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
96 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
102 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
108 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
114 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
120 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
126 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
132 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
138 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
144 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
150 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
156 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
162 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
168 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
174 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
180 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
186 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
192 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
198 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
204 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
210 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
216 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
222 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
228 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
234 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
240 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
246 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
252 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
258 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
264 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
270 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
276 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
282 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
288 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
294 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
300 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
306 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
312 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
318 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
324 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
330 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
336 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
342 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
348 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
354 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
360 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
366 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
372 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
378 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
384 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
390 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
396 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
402 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
408 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
414 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
420 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
426 months	5.75%	Discount	2.25%	Prime	8.07%	Discount	0.50%	Bank	0.50%
432 months	5.75%	Discount	2						

business

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BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2636 fax 0171-293 2098

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DEPUTY BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: MICHAEL HARRISON

BA rocked by USAir suit to block alliance

CHRIS GODSMARK
Business Correspondent

British Airways' proposed alliance with American Airlines was dealt a severe blow last night when USAir, the airline in which BA holds a 25 per cent stake, began court action in the United States against the two carriers. The move threatens talks aimed at negotiating an "open skies" agreement between the United States and Britain, which would enable the alliance to clear US competition rules.

The lawsuit, which has been filed in the New York federal district court, claims that the new alliance violates the existing agreements USAir has with British Airways. In addition, the suit alleges that the BA-AA tie-up was in breach of US anti-trust laws which ban conduct that could damage competition.

The legal challenge came as a complete surprise to BA, which had insisted only last month that the existing arrangement with USAir would "remain in place." BA said: "USAir did not provide us with a copy of its com-

plaint or discuss it with us before making its announcement today. We have still not yet seen the suit. It says it has filed against us and American Airlines, so it is difficult for us to comment on it." However, USAir insisted BA had been informed beforehand.

American Airlines said: "We are astonished and mystified. Our proposed alliance with British Airways respects USAir's rights in every way and is extraordinarily pro-competitive."

But the news delighted other carriers who have fiercely lobbied against the BA-AA alliance on monopoly grounds.

Though the deal does not involve an equity stake by either carrier, it would merge timetables, marketing, passenger facilities and revenues, and would give the alliance 60 per cent of seat capacity between the UK and the US.

Richard Branson, head of Virgin Atlantic, said: "If BA's own partner airline believes the deal is anti-competitive, then every regulatory authority in the US and Europe can only draw the same conclusion, namely that a merger between BA and AA would create the world's biggest airline monopoly."

Although its code-sharing arrangements with BA would not be severed, USAir is believed to be ready to compete with its former partner for transatlantic business if it can gain access to Heathrow Airport.

This demand puts a dramatically different complexion on the "open skies" negotiations, which resume in Washington today. USAir is thought to be insisting on BA-AA giving up

some of its most lucrative slots at the airport. This could be a serious block for BA, which has said "there is no reason why we should divest our slots". Two previous attempts to secure an agreement, in 1993 and 1995, broke down over the issue of Heathrow.

In its statement explaining the legal action, USAir said its existing agreement with British Airways, signed in 1993, "required both parties' best efforts to complete and advance their alliance... The proposed accord between British Airways and

American Airlines, as presently constituted, is inconsistent with British Airways' requirements and obligations under its existing contracts with USAir."

It continued: "British Airways, acting in concert with American Airlines, also failed to act in good faith and breached its fiduciary duty to USAir as a joint venture partner."

USAir explained that it had gone to considerable lengths to fulfil its side of the deal with British Airways. To comply with US anti-trust rules, US Air, which does not fly from

Heathrow, had divested itself of its three routes between London Gatwick and the United States.

Asked whether USAir would be claiming damages against BA, a spokesman said: "The issue is not blocking the alliance, but remedying wrongs in the contractual relationship with BA."

The lawsuit came hours after the Commons Transport Select Committee gave its backing for the BA-AA alliance, on condition that an "open skies" agreement did provide real competition for access to Heathrow.

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Nat Express rail referral puts bus bids on guard

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR
Transport Correspondent

Bus companies may be put off bidding for rail franchises after yesterday's announcement by the Department of Trade and Industry that the Monopolies and Mergers Commission was to investigate the acquisition of the Midland Main Line franchise by National Express.

The company expressed "disappointment" that talks between the Office of Fair Trading and National Express which had been carrying on since last November had not resolved the competition issues. Colin Child, the group's finance director, said: "We had hoped that common sense would prevail and a compromise have been reached."

National Express took over the franchise of the Midland Main Line which runs services from London St Pancras to the East Midlands and Sheffield on 28 April, and had been confident at that time that any problems over competition issues with the OFT could be resolved. National Express also runs coach services to the towns served by MML but argued that the coach and train markets are very different.

However, last month, the OFT asked National Express to give a set of undertakings over its coach services before it would give the Midland takeover clearance. These included withdrawing services between London and Derby, Leicester, Nottingham, Chesterfield and Sheffield and helping other companies set up on these routes. The OFT wanted to impose very strict rules on National Express to ensure that the company did not stand in the way of any new operators setting up on the routes by ensuring that timetable information was printed in NE publicity material.

Stops, depots and other facilities were also to be made available to the new operators.

National Express balked at these requirements. Instead, it offered to give undertakings on service quality and frequency and on fares on its coach services which are much lower than the equivalent rail travel. The key leisure rail fare, the saver, is already regulated, and National Express also offered to limit increase in its Apex rail fares.

However, the OFT rejected this offer and National Express also refused to back down, arguing that other operators were unlikely to step into the breach and that the company could not be expected to help rival operators. Mr Child said: "We thought it better for all parties to clear the air and let the MMC look at the whole issue."

The MMC will report by 22 November and in the meantime both bus and rail operations will be unaffected.

Bus operators feel that the OFT is barking up the wrong tree since the transport market is so dominated by the private car. One operator pointed out: "For these types of journeys, 90 per cent are undertaken by car, while 8 per cent of people go by rail and 2 per cent by bus. What's the fuss about?"

Nevertheless, bus companies may be reluctant to go into the rail franchise market if they are going to face such problems.

Bus companies have so far been the mainstay of the rail bidding process winning four South West Trains, LTS, Gatwick Express, and MML - of the eight so far announced, with a fifth, Great Western, going to a management buy-out team backed by First Bus.

Stagecoach, which operates South West Trains was cleared to run the service despite the fact that it has a number of bus companies in the area.



Acquiring the Pelican brief: (from left) David Thomas, who runs Whitbread's restaurants and leisure division, posing for the camera at the company's London headquarters with his chief executive Peter Jarvis, while Pelican founders Karen Jones and Roger Myers look on

Whitbread buys Pelican for £133m

TOM STEVENSON
City Editor

Whitbread yesterday bought the Pelican chain of branded restaurants for £133m and immediately defended the price it was paying. The deal included £100m of goodwill. The deal will net £12m for Pelican's largest shareholder, Robert Earl, and make more than £2.8m apiece for the company's chairman and managing director.

Peter Jarvis, chief executive of Whitbread, said the acquisition was "a perfect strategic fit" for the brewing and leisure giant. It takes the company into what it described as "urban casual dining", an area that, despite its wide-ranging interests in restaurant brands from Beefeater to Pizza Hut, it had little exposure to.

Pelican, which runs about 100 themed restaurants and bars trading mainly under the Café Rouge and Dôme brands, is strongest in London where Whitbread also has a relatively low representation.

Whitbread said it plans to roll out up to 40 new restaurants a year to take Pelican from 100 outlets to 300 within five years. Pelican's founders Roger Myers and Karen Jones will remain with the company despite their windfalls, although Mr Myers will step down as chairman to be

replaced by David Thomas, who currently runs Whitbread's restaurants and leisure division. Mr Myers said selling out to Whitbread was the logical solution to Pelican's cash constraints which would have almost certainly required a rights issue later this year to fund expansion. Pelican grew from nothing to 100 sites in a little over six years.

Whitbread said the UK eating-out market had grown from a value of £16bn in 1991 to £21bn currently. Forecasts from the Henley Centre predict a further increase to £30bn by the year 2000. More than one-third of total food expenditure is now represented by eating out, which,

although it has risen sharply in recent years, is still a considerably lower proportion than in the more mature US market.

Within that market, Pelican has targeted a particularly fast-growing segment, aimed at relatively wealthy urban diners who, according to Whitbread, "eat when they are out, rather than go out to eat".

Pelican has been one of the restaurant sub-sector's success stories since coming to the market in 1990. After a hesitant beginning during recession, the shares have risen sevenfold since the start of 1993 as profits grew quickly to last year's £7.5m from sales of £52.1m.

The offer of 170p a share represents a 17 per cent premium over the 145p at which Pelican shares closed on Monday. Confirmation of the acquisition yesterday sent them 22.5p higher to 167.5p.

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Eating out boom, page 20



The offer of 170p a share represents a 17 per cent premium over the 145p at which Pelican shares closed on Monday. Confirmation of the acquisition yesterday sent them 22.5p higher to 167.5p.

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Raytheon talks may herald US tie-up

DAVID USBORNE
New York

McDonnell Douglas is believed to be in talks with Raytheon about combining their aviation and defence businesses or even possibly an outright merger, which could herald one more big consolidation of the US defence industry.

A fusion of the two companies would generate a giant of the same scale that was formed by the recent mergers of Lockheed and Martin Marietta, to create Lockheed Martin, and Northrop and Grumman, now combined as Northrop Grumman.

The courtship of Raytheon comes on the heels of McDonnell Douglas' brief but much-vaunted consideration of marriage with the Boeing Company last year. The St Louis-based company is said to consider the prospect of merging with Raytheon just as significant as a Boeing tie-up would have been.

Quoting sources close to the talks, the *Wall Street Journal* said that the talks had been code-named "Project Storm" and that Raytheon had been tagged "Rain". The sources insisted, however, that the discussions are in their early stages and only moving very slowly.

A full-blown merger of the companies is considered a relatively unlikely prospect, if only because the corporate cultures of the two are so different. Raytheon is also a much more diversified company than McDonnell Douglas, with highly important construction and aviation units. Its core business remains defence, however.

Were a full combination to be attempted, it would create an enterprise with more than \$26bn (£16.7bn) in annual revenue. It would be valued at about \$9.8bn based on the current market capitalisation of McDonnell Douglas. While Raytheon is smaller in revenue terms, its market capitalisation is slightly higher at \$10.75bn at current prices. Shares in both companies rose slightly yesterday on reports of the talks.

Salvesen family split over decision on £1bn Hays bid

NIGEL COPE

The Salvesen family which owns a controlling stake in the Christian Salvesen distribution business appeared split on the £1bn takeover approach from the Hays transport group yesterday ahead of a crunch board meeting to discuss the offer today.

Though the board is expected to reject the Hays approach, some members of the founding Salvesen family have expressed interest in agreeing a deal at a higher price. It is possible the company may be prepared to discuss higher terms or hope to

flush out a higher offer from a rival bidder.

Some 200 members of the Salvesen family control 38 per cent of the company's shares and hold the key to any deal. The current offer is pitched at around 365p per share valuing the company at just over £1bn though Hays is willing to negotiate on terms. Any split could be exploited by Hays.

Key decision-makers include Andrew and Robin Salvesen who sit on the board as non-executives and account for 3.4 per cent and 1 per cent of the shares respectively.

Family shareholders contact-

ed yesterday expressed differing opinions on the Hays offer. The largest single shareholder is Alastair Salvesen, the great-grandson of the company's founder, who controls 4.6 per cent of the equity. Contacted at his seafood company near Glasgow yesterday he said he was waiting for a more concrete offer from Hays in order to make a judgement.

However, he did not rule out an agreement. "I think everyone would be disappointed if the Christian Salvesen name was to disappear. But in today's world you have to be realistic."

Mr Salvesen has just complet-

ed a book on the Salvesen family tracing its history from its Norwegian origins in 1550 to its 1995 centenary. He did not rule out a hard-headed approach to a decent offer. He commented that a couple of years ago the share price rose above 400p. "We would be expecting considerably more than that."

Sir Gerald Elliot, chairman of the company from 1981 to 1987 and one of the senior members of the Salvesen family, was more firmly opposed to the bid. Speaking from the Highlands of Scotland, he said:

"You've got to take any sort of bid seriously but as far as the industrial logic is concerned I can't quite see it." He added that the family felt a strong loyalty to the company founded in Edinburgh and the largest company to retain headquarters in Scotland. "I should think they [the family] would act together," he said.

Another Salvesen family shareholder who preferred not to be named, said: "I think there would be a reluctance to accept an offer particularly if that meant having the company outside Scotland. There is probably less loyalty among the

younger members of the family but I think there would be a pretty strong feeling about the name disappearing."

One of Salvesen's institutional shareholders said it was prepared to listen to what Hays had to say. The fund manager added: "Salvesen is a business which has had a few problems. It has done some things to address those difficulties but the jury is out on whether the re-organisation is sufficient."

Christian Salvesen shares closed 4p higher at 360p. Hays shares shaded a penny lower at 429p.

Better outlook for Maxwell's creditors

JOHN WILLCOCK

Administrators to the late Robert Maxwell's American business empire have increased their estimate of projected payouts by around 5 per cent of roughly \$3bn (£1.9bn) owed to creditors.

The latest report by Price Waterhouse on the administration of Maxwell Communication Corporation (MCC) also discloses that fees and legal costs have surpassed \$74m since the group went into liquidation four years ago.

The accountants estimate an "optimistic" forecast for their fees and legal costs would be \$81m. Their "pessimistic" view is \$86m.

Maxwell pensioners will benefit from a proposed fifth payout by the administrators in the autumn of 3 per cent of the \$3bn claims. Price Waterhouse has already paid out around \$11m.

Price Waterhouse announced in their sixth report to creditors this week that 44 to 48 per cent of claims will ultimately be settled, a rise from 38 to 43 per cent initially forecast. This does not include legal claims made against various banks and professional advisers by the administrators.

Price Waterhouse is suing three of Maxwell's banks for around \$140m, and Maxwell's auditor Coopers & Lybrand for an undisclosed sum. A court decision on the banks' case is expected in November, when the trial over the Coopers audit is due to start.

It is also suing Whitman & Ransom, the New York law firm which advised Macmillan, formerly part of MCC, over a number of deals, but refuses to speculate on how much could be gained for creditors.

Price Waterhouse hopes to secure a deal with Arthur Andersen, liquidators of the private side of the Maxwell empire, over certain disrupted assets.

STOCK MARKETS					
Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1996 High	1996 Low
FTSE 100	3668.50	-10.30	-0.3	3657.10	3632.30
FTSE 250	4219.10	-7.00	-0.2	4268.00	4015.30
FTSE 350	1841.40	-4.70	-0.3	1945.40	1818.60
FT Small Cap	2083.17	-5.53	-0.3	2244.36	1964.06
FT All Share	1822.11	-4.68	-0.3	1924.17	1791.85
New York	5433.48	-1.11	-0.0	5778.00	5032.94
Tokyo	20880.33	-97.21	-0.4	22969.80	19734.70
Hong Kong	10585.86	-65.94	-0.6	11594.98	10294.67
Frankfurt	2467.48	-20.33	-0.8	2563.49	2253.36

INTEREST RATES					
Short sterling	UK medium bill	US long bond	Short sterling	UK medium bill	US long bond
1 month	1 year	10 year	1 month	1 year	10 year
5.76	6.00	7.90	8.24	8.01	8.30
5.31	5.81	6.85	6.48	7.03	6.91
0.47	1.06	3.33	2.87	-	-
3.34	3.50	6.39	6.78	6.95	-

CURRENCIES					
£/\$	£/DM	£/¥	£/\$	£/DM	£/¥
1.57	2.25	172	1.57	2.25	172
1.57	2.25	172	1.57	2.25	172
1.57	2.25	172	1.57	2.25	172
1.57	2.25	172	1.57	2.25	172
1.57	2.25	172	1.57	2.25	172

OTHER INDICATORS					
Oil Brent	RPI	GDP	Base Rates	Index	Latest Yr Ago
18.07	153.0	107.9	5.75pc	149.8	15 Aug
384.80	107.9	107.9	5.75pc	149.8	15 Aug
247.24	107.9	107.9	5.75pc	149.8	15 Aug



business

Capita flourishes on outsourcing

Capita has come a long way since Rod Aldridge paid the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy £330,000 for the business in 1987. It was making profits of £57,000 then, a fraction of the £11.3m pencilled in for the full year to December.

Yesterday's first half figures, showing pre-tax profits up 14 per cent to £4.6m, were struck from turnover 15 per cent higher at £50.1m. They confirmed that the market for what the jargon terms outsourcing – paying someone else to do a peripheral function so you can get on with your core business – is flourishing.

Capita, which has grown from its roots in information technology, now extends to a wide range of services including running the written part of the new driving test, running all the non-clinical side of an NHS trust hospital, and even administering the teachers' pension scheme.

The company's success partly reflects the underlying growth in the market, which some estimates believe could be increasing at a compound rate of 24 per cent a year. But it is also testimony to Capita's ability to judge contracts well, to price them correctly to win a tender and then to cut costs quickly enough to create a decent margin.

That is no mean feat, especially as the sort of contracts Capita now wins are getting increasingly long and complex. Margins on these large deals are often low in the opening months, rise as operational efficiencies are introduced and improve still further as bolt-on contracts are pushed through. In the case of Wight, for example, a second NHS trust contract will use much of the same infrastructure as the first one that proved Capita's worth but involved heavy start-up costs.

The good news for Capita shareholders is that the company is operating at record activity levels, with contracts worth £254m signed in the last 12 months. Of that total, contracts to a value of £174m do not start until the second half-year and there is no evidence at all of the prospect of a Labour government stemming the flow of this peculiarly Tory invention.

The bad news, however, is that the good news is well and truly in the price. As ever with fast growing companies, the 20 per cent-plus growth rates possible in the early years become increasingly difficult to maintain as the years roll by. Analysts are forecasting 17 per cent earnings growth this year, followed by 16 per cent in 1997.

That is impressive enough by most standards, but compared with a

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

prospective price/earnings ratio of 25 this year it is perhaps not enough to sustain the share price. The shares have fallen from a high this summer of 380p and still look vulnerable.

NatWest unveils its new look

The old NatWest juggernaut has been overhauled, worn-out accessories have been discarded and road tests are about to begin on the new model. The question investors need answered is whether it will actually run better than the old one.

The new NatWest will focus on UK and Irish domestic banking, investment banking in London, New York and Asia and private banking for the prosperous, using the Coutts brand name. Bancorp has been sold in the US and the Spanish subsidiary is about to go.

The half-year results are heavily distorted downwards by taking the write-off of the goodwill for Bancorp through the profit and loss account and

by the £224m gain on the sale of the stake in 3i. Ignore that, and look at the continuing businesses, where a 23 per cent increase in pre-tax profit to £879m compares with a year earlier.

A milestone was also passed, with more than half the income for the first time coming from fees and commissions rather than interest margins. Bad debt provisions were up 20 per cent, to £270m, but more than half the rise was because the Lombard finance house was lending too much to young people to buy mobile phones and the like, which has now been put right with tougher controls. That should rate as a good sign, since NatWest caught the problem early and put it right.

But what it needs to do now is to emulate LloydsTSB in the home market by getting costs down further, building the life insurance business – where an acquisition is still proving hard to find – and catching Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs in international investment banking.

The former is a possibility, but it will not be fast track stuff on present timetables. In the latter, NatWest has made more progress than generally ac-

knowledgeed across most of its businesses, but lacks the corporate finance strength and has a lot to prove with its new American acquisitions.

With the buy-back holding back the price – institutions will not be trading for fear of losing their tax rebates – the shares have nowhere to go at the moment. But as the dust settles after the acquisition spree, NatWest shares are a better medium-term bet than Lloyds.

Whitbread buy tried and tested

The acquisition of Pelican by Whitbread announced yesterday is an interesting case study in timing. It is a deal that investors looking to maximise growth while minimising risk could learn a lot from.

Whitbread realised it had little exposure to what it calls the urban casual dining market so well catered for by Pelican's chains such as Dome, Cafe Rouge and Mamma Amalfi. It faced two options, taking Pelican on its own game or buying the company.

Clearly, buying an existing player carries some intrinsic risks. There is a danger that the management which started the operation will disappear at the first opportunity with its new-found wealth. Culture clashes are a potential problem. And goodwill has to be paid – in this case £100m out of a total payment of £133m.

The advantage of doing it this way, however, is that the formula is already tested. In the case of Pelican, a London-based concept has already been pushed out, tentatively, into the provinces and it appears to work.

So Whitbread is buying a proven but cash-strapped formula. If it has any sense, it will stand well back, let Pelican's management have access to its money, provide Pelican with the benefits of its better buying power and systems and watch its investment grow.

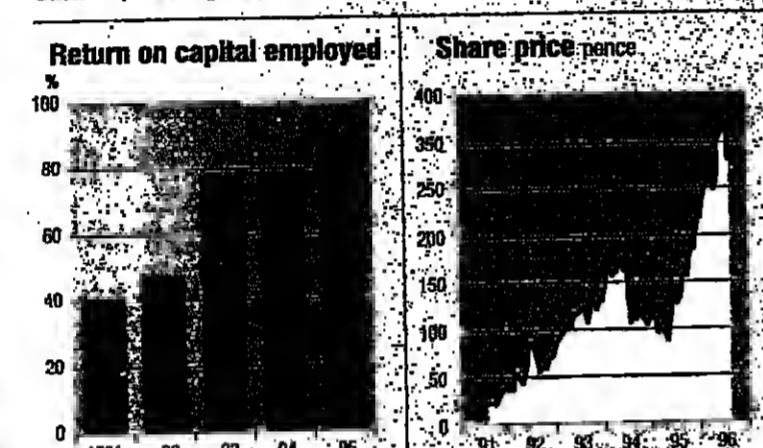
The technique is similar to the investment strategy of Mark Slater, son of Jim, and manager of a league-table topping unit trust. Using his father's investment philosophy he has started buying companies with a proven record of earnings growth, cheap relative to their potential growth rate, and which have already started outperforming the market.

As with buying shares, the formula applies to buying complete businesses and it would be surprising if Whitbread did not make a very tidy return out of Pelican.

CAPITA: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £197.5m, share price 340p

Five-Year record	1993	1994	1995	1996	1996
Turnover (£m)	35.4	40.1	45.8	50.1	54.6
Pre-tax profits (£m)	5.46	7.90	9.42	10.0	11.3
Dividends per share (pence)	2.55	3.30	3.50	3.3	3.6



COMPANY RESULTS	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Bentley Industries (I)	5.85m (5.99m)	-0.48m (-0.38m)	-6.15p (-4.87p)	nil (-)
Bovis Lend Lease (I)	20.4m (16.8m)	2.75m (2.01m)	8.2p (6.1p)	2.5p (2p)
Capita Group (I)	50.1m (43.4m)	4.6m (4.0m)	5.5p (5p)	1.6p (1.3p)
Cavaghan & Gray (I)	60.6m (42.5m)	-1.74m (-0.53m)	-3.89p (3.66p)	4.2p (2.2p)
Hamlet Group (I)	122m (89.7m)	7.62m (6.76m)	13.46p (13.14p)	7.5p (6.3p)
NatWest (I)	- (-)	302m (872m)	-4.3p (33.8p)	9.6p (-)
Swire (I)	10.8m (9.89m)	-1.04m (-0.23m)	-1.1p (-0.3p)	nil (-)
Toad (I)	3.01m (0.16m)	-2.31m (-0.86m)	- (-)	nil (-)

(I) - Final (I) - Interim (I) - 11 months (12 months) * - 15 months (16 months)

Cognac move proves expensive for Remy

TOM STEVENSON
City Editor

Remy Cointreau saw its earnings collapse in the year to March as it broke ranks with other cognac producers to raise prices. Volume falls as a result of the pricing move slashed profits by more than 50 per cent in the period.

Francois Heriard Dubreuil, one of Remy's managing directors, said: "In summary, 1996 was a difficult year for us."

Net profits tumbled from FF276m (£35.4m) to FF120m in the 12 months ended in March and analysts said the prospects for the current year did not appear much brighter.

"Remy was negative about the prospects for cognac and very prudent in its activities in Asia," said Cecile d'Estaie, an analyst at Paribas Capital Markets. "That's not very encouraging for their operating profit."

Remy makes more than half of its cognac sales in Asia, prin-

cipally in Malaysia, Taiwan and China, where it says it controls more than 50 per cent of the market share.

Analysts focused on a gloomy trading report from the first three months of the current year, showing a 20 per cent fall in sales of cognac despite flat overall group sales. Remy thinks profits will recover this year thanks to growth in its champagne, wine and liquor volumes and additional distribution contracts. Thanks to the

weighting of Remy sales towards the Christmas period, the first quarter only accounts for about a fifth of annual sales.

As well as the decision to raise prices, sales of Remy have also been hit by the strength of the French franc against the dollar and other currencies where Remy does business.

The company predicted a significant drop in financial costs, thanks to debt reduction during the year. Borrowings fell by almost FF2.5bn during the peri-

od, thanks to asset sales, and further reductions were promised. Speaking at a London press conference, Remy's managers said they aimed to slash its debt further this financial year by disposing of non-core businesses, although they refused to say how much they planned to raise.

"But if I tell you we are going to reduce debt, then we are going to do something," said Marc Heriard Dubreuil, another managing director at the group. Sales of Remy Martin fell 13.5

per cent after the decision to raise prices. Remy said, however, that contrary to Chinese statistics, the cognac had not lost market share in that important market. Remy said it was important to raise prices, not only to improve margins but to maintain Remy Martin's image as a luxury product.

Sales of Remy's champagne brands, which include Krug and Piper Heidsieck, rose 3 per cent during the year.

Comment, page 17

Home, sweet home for abandoned gnomes

CITY DIARY

JOHN WILLCOCK



Robert Chambers: A Tory champion for homeless gnomes

If you suffer from the crippling social stigma of owning garden gnomes, fear not. Help is at hand. Top Essex Tory Robert Chambers has transformed his garden at Duddenhoe End, near Saffron Walden, into a sanctuary for unwanted gnomes.

Mr Chambers, former leader of Uttlesford District Council, has only received two so far, but he says this proves how very much we Brits care about our gnomes. "I like them because they are friendly little creatures who always have a smile on their face... People have revered creatures such as gnomes, pixies, goblins and leprechauns for thousands of years. They represent the spirits that live under the soil and look after the plants."

Sounds like someone should be looking after Mr Chambers.

Calling all bond dealers. Forget dollars and yen, how about investing in five-year's worth of top Bordeaux plonk?

For a mere £2,650 you can buy a Matrix-Securities 1996 Wine Bond and receive 10 cases of wine a year for around half the shop price, according to the company.

Matrix-Securities, a corporate finance boutique, has teamed up with Jonathan Malus, a Brit who sold his engineering recruitment company two years ago and bought the Chateau Teyssier vineyard.

The vineyard produces Saint Emilion Grand Cru "for laying down", and under

Karen Jones, and of Pelican, signed the sale of the cafes group to Whitbread on Monday – her 42nd birthday. And she has every reason to celebrate. She has 398,000 Pelican shares plus 1.5 million options exercisable at 31p. Given that Whitbread bought out the Dome and Cafe Rouge group for 170p per share, the mother of two will be trousering around £2.8m.

Mrs Jones, who originally from Upper Poppleton just outside York, has brought a whiff of the Continent to the grey world of British calls. Now she is the ultimate Londoner – the Pelican group is based in Frith Street in trendy Soho, and her club is the nearby Groncho, that nest of advertising bores. Come on – let's have a Pelican brasserie for Upper Poppleton.

the five-year deal you will also get L'Esprit de Teyssier claret and rose to guzzle while the top plonk matures.

Mr Malus is seeking to raise £1m from around 350 investors to build up the vineyard. David Royds, a director of Matrix-Securities, admits it isn't really a bond, rather a way of buying wine cheaply. Mr Royds insists the offer isn't aimed solely at high net worth individuals. "We're aiming more at people who drink a fair amount of wine."

*I am the sister, she said and sat
In the seat, carefully
arranging her hat
In the office, next the
window, next the road, by
the river
Sitting and looking, her*

ample form suspended in amber and wood. Admirer and spruce. Office Corp Furniture of High Wycombe has launched its new range of office furniture with a brochure in which the usual sales "blurb" has been replaced by a series of poems, the above example being on the front cover.

Chester Wedgewood, the company's chief executive, wanted something different and he chose Giles Emerson, a poet and copywriter to do it.

Giles wrote seven short poems for them, and says he is delighted with the result. "It's a way of giving personality and colour to something that is very stereotypical and straight – a range of chairs."

Giles does a lot of copywriting for people like the Foreign Office, and recently turned down an opportunity to draft the Government's White Paper on competitiveness, as he couldn't get down to London from his home in Shropshire. He has also written stuff for Whitbread's O'Hagan pubs, which sell bottled Murphy's beer. "A good head on stout shoulders."

I prefer the stuff about "her ample form" myself.

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New Westminster bids sought

MATTHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

Pearson's financial advisers are desperately seeking new bidders for Westminster Press, following disappointing former offers from the front-runners Newsquest and a consortium made up of Mirror Group and Tony O'Reilly's Independent Newspapers.

John Makinson, the Pearson executive overseeing the sale, and Lazard Brothers, which is running the auction for the collection of 60 regional newspaper titles, are reliably believed to be canvassing both trade and financial buyers, hoping to create a consortium able to bid more than £300m for the titles.

Attention has focused on United News & Media, Trinity and Northcliffe, the regional newspaper arm of Daily Mail & General Trust. The latter two of these are believed to have already made bids for part of the group. Lazard also hopes to entice a financial buyer to join a consortium.

However, United has thus far resisted Lazard's approaches, insiders said last night, and will only look at the option seriously when Lork Hollick, its chief executive, returns from holiday. One source said last night that United remained interested in buying Blenheim, the exhibitions company, but that those talks had been "put on the back burner."

Media analysts predicted last night that United would stay away from the Westminster Press auction. "Hollick has said he is interested in exhibitions, business magazines, television and financial data services," one said. "There isn't really room on that list for more regional newspapers."

The two main bids on the table for Westminster Press, which sources close to the talks



John Makinson: Looking for a consortium able to bid more than £300m for the titles

say are similar, value the titles at less than £300m, although the headline figure is difficult to establish because of the structure of the offers.

The bidders are believed to be concerned that the titles, which are on track to make £35m this year, could be far less profitable in the future unless significant capital investment is made. There is also a difference of opinion over the value of the company's stake in the Press As-

sociation and its pension plan. "The regional newspaper market will require considerable capital to take advantage of opportunities in the electronic age," one analyst said. "Nobody will want to overpay for regional newspapers right now."

He added that a series of newspaper deals may have sated the market's appetite, and that Pearson may have waited too long before announcing the sale.

Any deal that gives Pearson significantly less than £300m would be highly dilutive, media analysts said last night. Fears that the auction was not proceeding smoothly, coupled with expectations of poor profits when the interim results are announced next week, sent Pearson shares down 24p yesterday to 606p.

Mirror Group and Independent Newspapers each own 46 per cent of the Independent.

Comment, page 18

IN BRIEF

• Unigate, the milk and fresh foods group, has continued its assault on the "monopoly" actions of Milk Marque, saying it was resulting in higher prices for consumers. Addressing shareholders at the company's annual meeting yesterday, chairman Ian Martin said that weak dairy prices were not yet reflected in lower milk costs.

"Until such time as milk costs reflect the true free market value of supply and demand, milk prices will remain artificially high to the detriment of users and consumers alike," he said. He added that the company was awaiting the outcome of the investigation by the Office of Fair Trading with interest. Reporting that trading was in line with expectations, Mr Martin said Unigate would continue to look for opportunities to expand its fresh food and distribution businesses.

• Dairy Crest, the UK's third largest milk producer is set to announce its flotation details tomorrow. Analysts are expecting a pricing of 160p, though recent problems in the new issues market may force a price cut. Dealings in the shares are expected to start on 28 August.

• Cambrin, the bio-technology group, has abandoned its flotation due to the weakness of the new issues market. The UK sector has fallen 25 per cent since its peak in May. Cambrin would have been valued at around £18m as a result of its flotation. It is now considering other options.

• Toad, the vehicle technology specialist expects to report its first ever profit in the year to 1998. Best known for its security products, the company is hoping to launch an "Active travel system" later this year. This will provide in-car information and links with the emergency services. In the year to March, Toad recorded a loss of £2.3m compared with a £860,000 deficit in the same period last year.

• Digital Technology, the US computer group, was forced heavily into the red in the fourth quarter due to heavy re-structuring charges. Provisions of \$492m pushed the company into a net loss of \$432m against a profit of \$159m in the same quarter last year. The company is also considering a \$10m share buy-back.

• The BSE beef crisis distorted annual results at the food group Cavaghan & Gray and will continue to affect profits in the coming year. The company said it was gradually reducing its dependence on beef at the same time as controlling costs. The beef scare pushed the group to a £1.7m loss on the year to March. This compared with a £632,000 profit in 1995.

• Siebe, the engineering group, says trading in the first four months of the current year has been "very encouraging". Speaking at the company's annual meeting yesterday, Siebe chief executive Allen Yuko said US markets had improved though UK areas are industrial equipment, where demand has weakened, and Unitech, the power controls business, where orders remain strong while the air conditioning business are recovering.

market report/shares

DATA BANK

FT-SE 100

3668.5 -10.3

FT-SE 250

4219.1 -7.0

FT-SE 350

1841.4 -4.7

SEAQ VOLUME

673.6m shares,

24,401 bargains

Gifts index

92.74 -0.08

SHARE SPOTLIGHT

Share price, pence

1994 1995 1996

100

200

300

400

500

600

700

800

900

1000

1100

1200

1300

1400

1500

1600

1700

1800

1900

2000

2100

2200

2300

2400

2500

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City fails to unmask Chiroscience's secret admirer

MARKET REPORT

PATRICK TOOHER



Investors spent most of the day trying to find out who, if anybody, was behind the near 10 per cent share-price rise in Chiroscience, the biotech stock which has attracted several broker's buy notes in the last week.

A round-up of the likely suspects yielded few results. Glaxo-Wellcome, reporting first half figures today, denied it was interested. SmithKline Beecham effectively ruled itself out by saying British biotech companies were too risky to buy outright at this stage in their development, while Zeneca declined to comment. Glaxo itself was the subject of buy recommendations from Societe Generale and NatWest and the shares closed 10p higher at 899p. Chiroscience, who said it had not received any firm approach from anybody, topped the list of FT-SE 250 risers, chalking up a 35p gain at 365p.

Among the drugs tiddlers

Phytopharm initially gained 6p to 205p before ending a penny higher as the group sought UK approval for its eczema treatment. Leisure was again a lively sector following confirmation that Whitbread had made a recommended £133m offer for 688p on the news, but Pelican soared 22.5p to 167.5p. Shares in other restaurant chains rose in sympathy, with City Centre Restaurants advancing 4.5p to 120.5p. Pizza Express closing up better at 399p and Canadian Pizza 5p to the good at 88p.

Disappointment that Whitbread had not gone for pubs group Tom Coghlin knocked its shares back 12p to 211p. A similar fate befell JD Wetherspoon, another themed pub operator, which fell 11p to 86p. Leading leisure stocks had another good run. The Rank

Organisation headed the list of blue-chip risers, adding 10p to 470p on a SBC Warburg buy recommendation. New chief executive Andrew Tate is expected to unveil details of a strategic review of the leisure group next week. Food and drinks giant Allied Domecq filled the number two slot, rising 9p to 438p as Merrill Lynch upgraded from reduce to neutral. Allied is in the process of selling its 50 per cent stake in Anglo-Danish brewer Carlsberg-Tetley to Bass, 2p weaker at 779p.

It was a hazy day on the bourses. In a chunky 74 page review of the industry, NatWest concluded that diversification by

the quoted operators into rail privatisation and overseas expansion offered "tremendous opportunities" and should lead further strong share price performance.

Stagecoach hit an all-time high of 482p, 9p higher on the day, as the broker urged investors to add to their holdings. First Bus, unchanged at 144p, received the same recommendation.

But news that the President of the Board of Trade, Ian Lang, had referred National Express proposed acquisition of the Midland Main Line rail franchise to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission sent the shares into reverse. They

shed 12p to 443p after Mr Lang said the company was not prepared to give the undertakings he had sought about withdrawing some parallel coach services and encouraging competition.

Mr Lang was more generous towards promotional printer Bemrose, whose £24.2m acquisition of diary group Charles Letts will not now trouble the regulators any longer. Shares in Bemrose remained unchanged at 340p.

British Airways had a turbulent session. The shares cruised to 520p at one stage after MPs backed its proposed link-up with American Airlines. But minutes before the market closed US Airways said it had filed a lawsuit against BA and American alleging that they are seeking to undermine its competitive position and limit competition on transatlantic routes. BA eventually closed unchanged at 518p.

Among media stocks, Pearson fell 18p at 606p on reports of possible delays in the sale of its Westminster Press division and likely cost-overruns for re-launching video recorders ahead of Channel Five's launch next year.

United News & Media was also neglected, down 20p at 629p on concern that it may pay too much for Westminster if it becomes involved in an auction for Pearson's unit.

NatWest fell in afternoon trade after announcing first-half results at the top end of expectations. The bank's buy-back of its own shares at 625p pushed the price 12p lower at 616p.

The daily drip-feed of new issues on AIM largely went down well. HTT Entertainment, the children's animation group, closed at a 26p premium to its 163p placing price, but West 175 Enterprises, the US television production company, dipped 5p to 120p.

London-listed US motor parts distributor Mid-States returned to the dividend list for the first time in three years after posting second quarter pre-tax profits 17 per cent higher at £16.3m. Derwent Demolition, the Irish entrepreneur who recently bought London City airport, has built up an 18 per cent stake. The shares ended 2.5p higher at 20.5p.

Sports retailer Blacks Leisure closed 2p lower at 168p. The shares have dipped since a recent *agm statement* said underlying sales growth of 24 per cent in the first 20 weeks would not be repeated in the second half. But house broker Williams de Broe thinks the drop is overdone and has raised its pre-tax estimates for the year to February 1997 from £11.7m to £14.7m, implying a prospective p/e ratio of 11.

TAKING STOCK

Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. Other details: * Ex rights & Ex dividends & Ex UK & US Securities Market & Suspended. ** Parity Paid pm & Paid Shares, 4 AM Stock. Source: FT Information

The Independent Index

The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from Seaq. Simply dial 091 223 525, followed by the eight digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest independent index, including its portfolio facility, phone 091 223 533. For assistance, call our helpline 071 873 4375 (9.30am - 5.30pm). Calls cost 20p per minute (cheap rate), and 40p at all other times. Call charges include VAT.

Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

Stock	Volume	Value	Stock	Volume	Value
NatWest Bank	147,000	£14.7m	British Airways	40,000	£14.7m
British Energy	147,000	£14.7m	Shell Group	30,000	£14.7m
BT	30,000	£14.7m	Abey National	30,000	£14.7m
Carroll Electronics	30,000	£14.7m	BAI Inc	30,000	£14.7m

FT-SE 100 index hour by hour

Open	High	Low	Close
3668.5	3672.0	3665.0	3668.5

FT-SE 250 index hour by hour

Open	High	Low	Close
4219.1	4222.0	4216.0	4219.1

FT-SE 350 index hour by hour

Open	High	Low	Close
1841.4	1844.0	1838.0	1841.4

SeaQ VOLUME

Open	High	Low	Close
673.6m	675.0m	672.0m	673.6m

Gifts index

Open	High	Low	Close
92.74	92.80	92.70	92.74

Alcoholic Beverages

Stock	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.20	+0.01

Banks, Merchant

Stock	Price	Change
Barclays	1.20	+0.01

Banks, Retail

Stock	Price	Change
Bank of Scotland	1.20	+0.01

Breweries, Pubs & Rest

Stock	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.20	+0.01

Diversified Industrials

Stock	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.20	+0.01

Engineering Vehicles

Stock	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.20	+0.01

Extractive Industries

Stock	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.20	+0.01

Electricity

Stock	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.20	+0.01

Electronics

Stock	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.20	+0.01

Food Manufacturers

Stock	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.20	+0.01

Food Distribution

Stock	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.20	+0.01

Health Care

Stock	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.20	+0.01

Engineering

Stock	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.20	+0.01

Chemicals

Stock	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.20	+0.01

Government Securities

Stock	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.20	+0.01

Shorts

Stock	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.20	+0.01

Mediums

Stock	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.20	+0.01

Longs

Stock	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.20	+0.01

Telecommunications

Stock	Price	Change
Adnoca	1.20	+0.01

Waiting on the Café Rouge revolution

GLENDIA COOPER

In the Sixties the Italian trattoria ruled the high street. In the Seventies the steak-house took over, and in the Eighties everything else paled beside minimalist nouvelle cuisine and the arrogant waiters of the restaurant boom-time.

But trends wax and wane and the Nineties have ushered in value-for-money family outlets, themed restaurants and the Conran-inspired hangar-sized eateries of London.

Among these trends is that of the perfectly created replica of the fictional French café of our dreams. Yesterday, the catering giant Whitbread announced that it was buying the main creators of this genre, the Pelican Group, whose Dôme and Café Rouge chains are now whipping up cappuccinos all over the country, while remaining strongest in the capital.

And they are all doing well. Research into the nation's eating habits revealed that Britons have turned into avid eaters out, spending twice as much money in restaurants as they did 30 years ago.

"If you looked at restaurants in Britain in 1960 you'd think you were a Martian landing on a different planet," said David Harrolds, chief executive of the Restaurateurs Association of Great Britain.

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) survey of 1,000 households in Bristol, Preston and London in April 1995 found that 94 per cent of the population had dined out in the past twelve months, on average once every three weeks.

"There was a very large increase in the proportion of meals eaten outside the home in the 1980s," said Simon Johnson, analyst for Barclays de Zoete Wedd. "It came about as the result of meals being slightly cheaper, the growing importance of the grey market -

older people - having money to spend on eating out, and because people were more busy."

Restaurants blossomed, but the recession changed all that and hundreds were forced to close. "What we found in the recession was that people were prepared ... to go for less expensive meals, but they did not cut down on the number of occasions they went out," said Mr Johnson.

"Many restaurants at the lower end of the market did not suffer as much. The mid-price restaurants responded by offering special meals - three courses for £4.95, all you can eat pizza and pasta buffets."

Pubs made inroads in the food market by smartening up their act, said Peter Love, gen-

'If you looked at restaurants in Britain in 1960 you'd think you were on a different planet'

eral secretary of the National Association of Licensed House Managers. "Pub food has come a long way from a pie and a pint," he said.

The pub giants made themselves more family-friendly by developing children-focused outlets - purpose-built play-barns with names such as Wacky Warehouses, Jungle Bungalows and Captain Coozies.

In March the leisure group Allied Domecq announced a £150m expansion. The emphasis was on family appeal with more Wacky Warehouses attached to the group's chain of Big Steak pubs. It is seen as a sound financial investment. Big Steak pubs tend to take five times as much money as the average managed house.

But for those who can afford a bit more, two of the most interesting developments of the

1990s have been the growth in theme restaurants and the trend to bigger and bigger.

On one side of Leicester Square stands Planet Hollywood, set up by Sylvester Stallone, Bruce Willis and Arnold Schwarzenegger, which features film memorabilia. Its new rival, still under construction, is the Fashion Café started by the three supermodels Naomi Campbell, Claudia Schiffer and Elle MacPherson. And the next development looks to be Marvel Mania, which promises to be the world's largest themed restaurant based on the Marvel comic-book heroes, Spiderman, Captain America and the Fantastic Four. All have followed in the footsteps of the Hard Rock Café "the granddaddy of theme restaurants", as Mr Harrolds described it.

Size does seem to matter. Last year Sir Terence Conran opened Mezzo which seats 700 and was billed as the largest restaurant in Europe.

Mezzo is just the latest example of the record-breaking scale among London restaurants. Other establishments opened recently included Belgo Central in Covent Garden, seating 400, the Atlantic Bar and Grill off Piccadilly for 250 and the bangor-sized People's Palace in the Festival Hall on the South Bank in London.

Despite these developments, and the wide range - Londoners can now taste the cuisine of over 50 countries - Britain is still far from being a nation of gourmets. In many suburban and rural parts of the country, the pub-cum-steak house reigns supreme.

All over the country, however, sociability remains the primary reason for eating out. "Quality and variety were not major themes," said Lydia Martens, co-author of the report for the ESRC. "It's seen as a way to meet friends, family meals or to escape doing the cooking."

The Pelican brief, page 16



Service with a smile: A waiter at the Café Rouge bar-restaurant at Canary Wharf, in Docklands, east London

Photograph: Tom Pilton

Star cooking fails to seduce public's palate

The number of the French able to eat at the top "gastronomic" end of the market has been in serious decline for years. This is not merely a matter of cash - there are plenty of rich tourists and more than enough French businessmen on expenses to keep the home fires burning - but also the result of the joint efforts of the star chefs of the nouvelle cuisine and their propaganda agents, the Michelin inspectors.

For 20 years the nature of French gastronomy almost fell victim to their lucubrations, which proved a gigantic turn-off to a public increasingly unwilling to spend £100 and more (without wine) on a skimpy

meal which satisfied no one but the chef's ego.

The relative eclipse of the top of the market in fact opened up a whole new area for marketing: French food, satisfactorily prepared, democratically and unpretentiously presented, sans flummary and essentially quick.

If the French have been forsaking the upper levels of gastronomy, how much more likely are we - familiar as we are, since the Second World War, with the little bistro with its chequered table clothes and the friendly trattoria down the road. It was, after all, only a matter of time before French food became officially naturalised. It therefore makes considerable sense for

Gastronomic revolt has opened fresh markets, writes Keith Botsford

Whitbread to bid for Pelican, which markets French fast food in some 100 bars and cafes.

In France, part of the new market went towards the more traditional "family" restaurants with their *cuisine bourgeoise*, solid and unimaginative but filling; in these, prices have been steadily falling, to the point where it is now possible, in most parts of Paris, to eat a decent meal for about one-tenth of the

price of a visit to a two- or three-star place.

The other development has been the revival of the brasserie and the cafe that serves food. This is fast food in a form of cooking at which the French are most expert: the splendid grilled *entrecôte* with its *pommes frites*, the light and fluffy omelette, the grilled fish and so on.

In making a bid, Whitbread will have taken a close look at the brasserie concept and its enormous expansion; it will have realised that British taste in food has expanded hugely in the last decade, and noted the revolution brought about by the supermarkets with their array of imported ingredients.

It will also have taken cognizance of the fact that eating out is no longer, for couples who both work and quite possibly have no children, the luxury that it once was, and that the generation of the Nineties wants its food simple, pleasant, uncomplicated and satisfying. Gastronomy is also very labour-intensive, which is one reason for its cost; the theme cafe or bar, the brasserie, serves many more customers from its kitchen by limiting its menu and using simpler techniques.

To a degree, this revolution has been going on throughout the world; its development here can only be satisfactory - if, of course, high standards are maintained.

'Junk cuisine' roasted by chefs



Raymond Blanc: 'It is a travesty of French cooking'

KATE WATSON-SMYTH

Culinary standards in French-style concept restaurants were dismissed as "junk" by some of the country's leading chefs yesterday.

Café Rouge and the Dôme, which offer cheap French food in homely bistro surroundings, have sprung up across Britain in the past six years. But although enormously popular, distinguished restaurateurs described the food the chains serve as lousy, and said customers were being conned.

Nico Ladenis, owner of Chez

Nico in London, threw tact to the wind, saying meals served up at Café Rouge were junk and he was amazed that Whitbread would want to spend so much money to acquire the chain.

"These concept restaurants are just creating an illusion of French cooking and it makes me very sad that Whitbread want to spend so much money buying rubbish. They have tried to make their restaurants look genuine, but they aren't. I would suggest that McDonald's looks to its laurels, because it is the only real competition for Café Rouge and the Dôme."

Raymond Blanc, chef-proprietor of Le Manoir aux Quatre Saisons in Oxfordshire, was equally forthright.

"I have been to one of those places and I was struck by the mediocrity of the cuisine and nondescript quality," he said. "It is a travesty of French cooking. They have bastardised French cuisine."

Philippe Lhermitte, general manager of Mon Plaisir, the oldest French restaurant in London, dismissed the chain as little more than a clichéd interpretation of French bistro culture.

"We are producing genuine French food. A lot of these places are just a poor imitation, but the problem is that they are trying to convince people that a certain type of food is genuine, traditional, French cooking."

"At Mon Plaisir every fryer is peeled by hand and the food is cooked properly. It is not just bought in, ready-prepared. These places are offering a cliché."

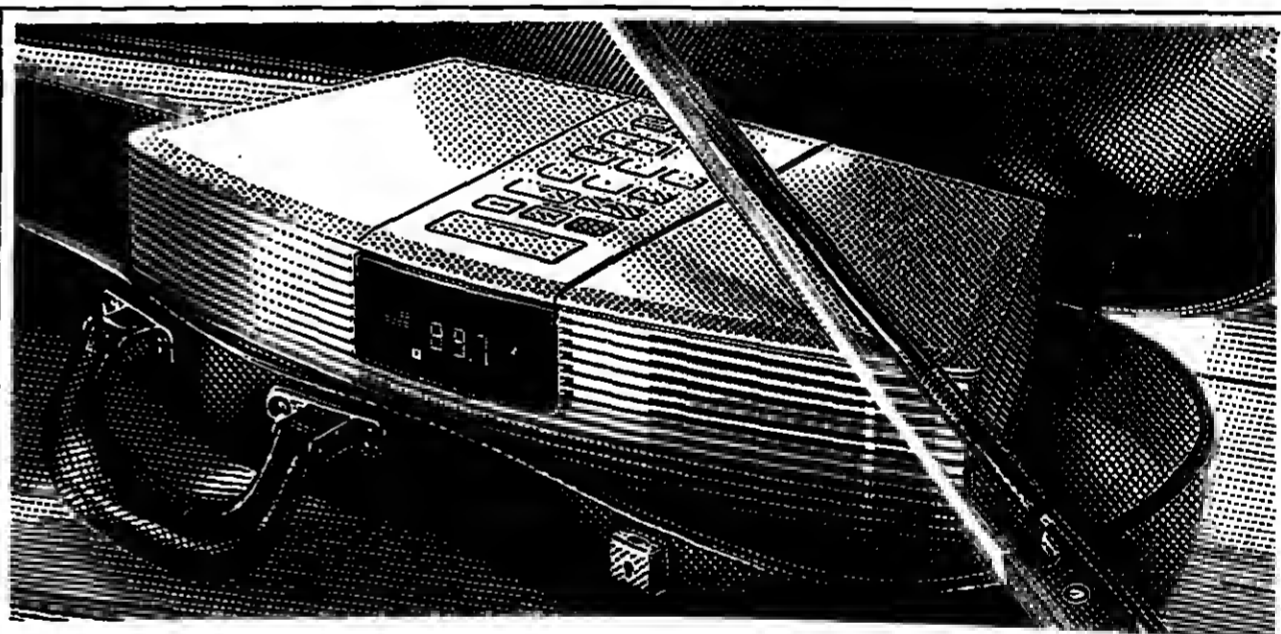
There was, however, one lone voice of support, from chef Anthony Worrall Thompson, who had nothing but praise for the professional way that the company had built itself up.

"I think the concept is very good and Pelican have done very well with it. The tables are always packed."

"French cooking is very elitist and they are very arrogant about it, so if these restaurants bring them down to size a bit by simplifying it all, then I see no problem with that."



Nico Ladenis: 'McDonald's is the only competition'



No radio this small ever sounded so big

Introducing the new Bose® Wave® radio - for room-filling sound throughout your home.

Enjoy the distinct sound of strings in your kitchen. Or the full orchestra in your bedroom.

The Bose Wave radio fills any room in your home with a sound that is bigger, richer, more lifelike than anything you would expect from a radio this small. The secret to the remarkable sound is the award-winning Acoustic Waveguide® speaker technology. What you hear is exceptional clarity in voices and instruments. All the subtle nuances of music come alive. The bass remains rich and full, even at low volume levels.

Built for your enjoyment.

The Bose Wave radio is built to go anywhere in your home. It can be connected to your choice of external sources, including a portable tape or CD player, a computer, even your television. For operating convenience, there is a credit card-sized remote control, pre-set buttons for AM/FM stations, digital display, dual alarms and many other features. The Wave radio is only available direct from Bose.

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Yes, Bose, it sounds good to me. Please send me more information about the Bose Wave radio and the 14-day satisfaction-guaranteed audition.

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BOSE
Outstanding through research.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD
No. 3053, Wednesday 31 July By Aquila

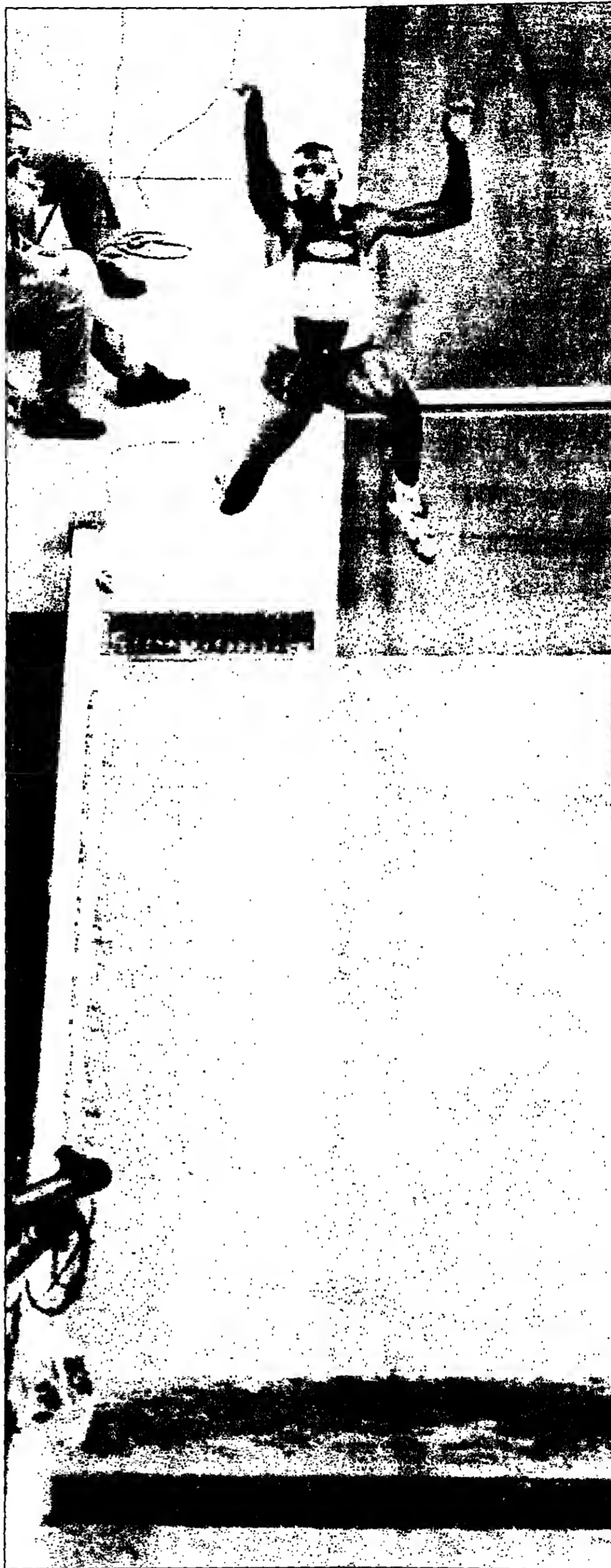
Tuesday's Solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32

ACROSS

- Opposed to endless ring, or echo, in church? (8)
- Main stems making shadows (6)
- Vans at front door moving to midlands tourist centre (9-2-4)
- Ribs lie to be tickled, exciting laughter (7)
- Contented states - from settlement of debts (7)
- American disaster film (8)
- The young Footie making a bloomer? (5)
- Soldier in the retiring crew (8)
- Big waves from demolition workers (8)
- New Testament parables all about these pieces of money (7)
- Chateau worker, an exceptional sort to a Victorian? (7)
- Shavian unpredictability (3,5,3,4)
- One who declaims from the floor, a tory? (6)
- Liquor from estate in fashion (8)
- Give protection to a ship on river (6)
- Hiding obsession about skin eruption (9)
- Fit to drink, according to River Board (7)
- Lightweight person a gas? (5)
- Lenient style of Punch illustrator (7)
- Lieutenant holding eggs of bluish-green colour (5)
- Carol twice in the nick? (4,4)
- It is enough, these days, to balance (8)
- American extremely tired of being waylaid? (8)
- Most stout toppers lit, possibly (9)
- Duty of guard, transported by rail, to leave (6-2)
- Hybrid fruit to glean, fresh (7)
- Tonics, you might say, of chemical compounds (7)
- English girls cooking salmon... (6)
- ...one girl left aroma (5)
- Meat firm restricted by boycott (5)

Lewis leaps into history



Enter sandman: Carl Lewis produces a magical leap on his way to victory Photograph: David Ashdown

1992 ATLANTA
Long Jump - Gold

With his fourth attempt, Lewis

Powell would go again, one last time, desperately pounding through the pain of his injury, screaming in agony, then collapsing in mid-air to fall face first into the sand, a picture of desolation. Reflecting on the in-

Lewis had been watching intently, respecting Powell enough to fear that he was still capable of pulling it off. "It was sad to see Mike in pain" — tears welled up in Powell's eyes as he sat waiting to jump — "but you never know. He's a tough competitor and there was no guarantee that my jump would be good enough."

The most enduring of all champions.

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a person lying down, possibly on a beach. The person is wearing a dark garment with the letters 'USA' printed on it in a bold, white font. The image is heavily textured with noise and grain, giving it a gritty, artistic appearance. The person's face is partially visible, and they appear to be resting or sleeping.

Exit stage left: A sand-spattered Mike Powell falls flat

Photograph: David Ashdown

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Back: 158 pages

2 olympic games

Sixsmith inspires adventurous Britain

YESTERDAY IN ATLANTA

Wood and Lake denied by US pair

Tennis

Britain's Valda Lake and Clare Wood were denied a place in the semi-finals of the women's doubles yesterday when the lost 6-2, 6-1 to the unrelated American pair with the same surname, Mary Joe and Gigi Fernandez.

The Americans, the defending champions and seeded No 1, took charge quickly by winning the first four games. Lake and Wood, who had upset Bulgaria's Malcheva sisters and the seventh-seeded South Africans Mariann de Swardt and Amanda Coetzer, had no answer.

However, Britain are faring better in the men's doubles, where Tim Henman and Neil Broad are just one win away from the first British medal since the sport was re-admitted to the Games eight years ago. Henman and Broad reached the semi-finals of the men's doubles on Monday by overpowering the fifth-seeded Czechs Jiri Novak and Daniel Vacek 7-6 6-4 in 81 minutes.

They completed their second surprise win in a row on Sunday the British pair defeated the second favourites Grant Connell and Daniel Nestor - with a display of powerful serving and solid teamwork at the net. Henman and Broad now play Germany's Marc Goellner and David Prinosil today for a place in the final.

Mary Joe Fernandez could become the first tennis player to earn four medals. She won the bronze in singles to go with her gold in doubles at Barcelona, and today plays Lindsay Davenport in the singles semi-finals.

Fernandez and Davenport have played three times previously, and it is not a heated rivalry. "Unfortunately, we do have to play against each other on the positive side, one of us is guaranteed a medal."

The winner will face either the No 3 seed, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain, or the No 6 seed, Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic.

Brentjens sees off snakes and rivals

Cycling

Bart Brentjens thrived in the dry and granite terrain of Georgia to become the first Dutchman in 24 years to win an Olympic cycling gold, writes Robin Nicholson.

He dominated yesterday's 47 kilometres in the mountain bike race, as expected of a world champion, to win with two minutes and 35 seconds to spare over Switzerland's Thomas Frischknecht. Miguel Martinez gave France the bronze.

Brentjens, the tallest competitor at 2m, stands 10 inches higher than Martinez but, apart from bikes, they have a common factor. Brentjens is trained by Gert Jan Theunisse, who won the mountain title in the 1989 Tour de France, and Martinez's father Mariano.

This race in the Georgia International Horse Park marked the Olympic debut of mountain biking but the Americans who pushed for this sport to be included in the programme were way off the medal pace over the arid land.

where snakes, appropriately known as black racers, came out in the sun.

Britain's best rider was Gary Ford, who finished in 12th place, nearly 12 and a half minutes behind Brentjens.

Today, Marc Sciandri can lift British hopes in the 222km road race where the best in world racing clash over the Buckhead circuit on the city outskirts. Born in Derby of an Italian father, Sciandri, frustrated at not winning Italian selection for the World Championships, exercised his bright and took over a British racing licence.

Selection followed and today he is Britain's best hope of a medal on a course where good luck and timing rather than team tactics will score. His Motorola team-mate Lance Armstrong calls it "one shot deal" for nearly 40 medal seekers, including the five times Tour de France winner, Miguel Indurain. The Spaniard was a non-finisher in the Los Angeles Olympics road race but returns to the medal hunt a wiser and much stronger opponent.

TODAY'S TIMETABLE

All times listed are BST.
ARCHERY (13:00): (m) Individual qualification (13:00); (w) individual final.
ATHLETICS (13:00): Decathlon - 100 metres (13:00); (m) pole vault (13:00); (w) 400 metres first round (14:00); (m) 200 metres first round (14:00); (w) 200 metres first round (14:00); (m) 400 metres first round (14:00); (w) 400 metres first round (14:00); (m) 800 metres first round (14:00); (w) 800 metres first round (14:00); (m) 1600 metres first round (14:00); (w) 1600 metres first round (14:00); (m) 3200 metres first round (14:00); (w) 3200 metres first round (14:00); (m) 6400 metres first round (14:00); (w) 6400 metres first round (14:00); (m) 12800 metres first round (14:00); (w) 12800 metres first round (14:00); (m) 25600 metres first round (14:00); (w) 25600 metres first round (14:00); (m) 51200 metres first round (14:00); (w) 51200 metres first round (14:00); (m) 102400 metres first round (14:00); (w) 102400 metres first round (14:00); (m) 204800 metres first round (14:00); (w) 204800 metres first round (14:00); (m) 409600 metres first round (14:00); (w) 409600 metres first round (14:00); 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One night in Atlanta...

Mike Rowbottom reflects on the pain, despair, glory, torn muscles and broken dreams on a pulsating Monday evening in the athletics stadium



The most memorable day's athletics of the Games so far put Britain's leading performers through the emotional mill.

For Sally Gunnell, whose defence of the Olympic 400 metres hurdles title ended in injury, there was despair. For Colin Jackson, thwarted once again in his desire to win the 110m hurdles gold there was frustration.

For Kelly Holmes, running through an injury and narrowly missing a medal in the 800m, there was pain. And for Roger Black, who chased home the inimitable, uncatchable Michael Johnson in the 400m final, there was joy.

Standing in the changing area shortly after a race which had provoked 82,000 spectators to fill the Centennial Olympic Stadium with sound, Black began to get an idea of what his achievement will feel like in years to come. "I'm Olympic silver medalist," he said, as if trying on a new coat for size. "It's not bad, is it?" The accompanying grin was huge.

Black, who turned 30 in March, has earned his reward. After four operations on his legs - the last of them just before Christmas - and a debilitating, year-long encounter with the Epstein-Barr virus in 1993 which caused him to wonder if he would ever run again, he has discovered the form of his life.

In what was the biggest race of his life, he judged his effort perfectly. In the final 20 metres he came under pressure from the two men on the inside lanes Davis Kamoga of Uganda and Alvin Harrison, who was left as the United States' No runner after the withdrawal through injury of Butch Reynolds.

For a moment it seemed as if Black was going to lose everything, but he kept his form to the line to finish in 44.15sec, just 0.04sec off his own British record.

Ahead of him, Johnson completed the first leg of his intended 200-400m double, managing to look unruffled despite finishing a second ahead of the Briton.

"I made a decision that there was only one way to beat Michael Johnson and that was if Michael Johnson made a mistake," Black said. "I had to run my own race, and I was going for the silver medal."

In the back of his mind, he carried the memory of the 1991 World Championships, when he had gone out too fast over the first 250 metres and allowed Antonio Pettigrew of the United States to come through for gold on the line.

With the upright, golden-shod figure of Johnson just ahead of him in the next lane, the temptation for Black to over-reach himself again was there - but he resisted it. "If I'd gone with Michael at 250 metres the same thing would have happened again, so I let him go. I said 'Right guys, you're not going to beat me over the last 100 metres'."

"Somebody told me on Sunday that I'd get silver because I had more experience than anyone else in the race but to use that experience, I had to use the mistakes I'd made in 1991. You learn from that day, from that mistake."

Johnson, meanwhile, is mindful of his own significant error as he starts his challenge for the 200m title today - the poor start in Oslo earlier this month which allowed Frankie Fredericks to end his unbeaten sequence of

38 races. "I will not make that mistake again," he said in his quiet, Texan drawl. "I had to hold it back in the 400m to make sure I was right for the 200. In the 400 I can't do what comes naturally to me. I can do now and I'll be ready."

The sight of Sally Gunnell being carried off the track after the 400m hurdles semi-final, her face working to hold back tears, was a desperate ome. She had struggled all season to make good her comeback after a year's absence with an injury to her right heel.

But after breaking down earlier this month at the Lausanne grand prix with a similar injury in her left heel, the odds on her making up lost ground on her American rivals here lengthen still further.

Yesterday Gunnell insisted she would not be rushed into making a decision about her future, though retirement cannot be ruled out. "I won't be making any decision about whether to carry on running at the moment," she said.

"All my emotions are mixed. I'm obviously disappointed about losing the title in such circumstances. But at least I went out and gave it a go. I just want to be on my own for a while and get away from everything that has happened."

"I felt the foot during the warm-ups. It was sore but I tried to ignore it. I hit the fourth hurdle and that knocked me off balance almost into the next lane. I then rotated on the foot and that is what caused the problem. There is no way I could have gone on."

Gunnell missed last season with a serious heel injury in her other foot and her frequently painful rehabilitation included an operation. However, if surgery is required this time Gunnell is likely to opt for retirement. "I just couldn't put up with it," she said. "That's the unhappy record for Britain's two defending champions in Atlanta reads: Linford Christie, DNS; Sally Gunnell, DNR."

Jackson, who seemed likely to earn Britain a third Olympic title four years ago until a rib injury contributed to his slide to seventh place in the final, suffered a similar combination of circumstances here as he missed out on a bronze medal by 0.02sec in a 110m hurdles final won in stupendous fashion by the American favourite, Allen Johnson.

Having finally got rid of the tendinitis which had undermined his training this season, Jackson suffered an injury at the start of the final, pulling the quadriceps muscle above his right knee. "His quad went as he came out of the blocks," said Malcolm Arnold, Jackson's long-time coach and national coach for Britain. "It blew up like a balloon afterwards."

Jackson finished fourth, in 13.19, as Johnson literally battered his way through to the gold, leaving a trail of seven of his 10 hurdles upturned. The last hurdle was flung aside like deckchair in a gale and for a moment it looked as if the American might trip in sight of the line.

But Johnson, who won the world title last year and this season came within 0.01sec of Jackson's world record of 12.91, was not going to let anything deter him. He won in 12.95sec ahead of fellow countryman Mark Crear and Florian Schwarhoff of Germany.

Thus the 29-year-old Welshman is left to reflect on another huge disappointment. "The Games just came a month too early for me," he said. "It feels as if it is fated not to be for me



Ups and downs: Allen Johnson of the United States (above, third from left) is well ahead of the field on his way to victory in the 110m hurdles on Monday night; and celebrates his win afterwards (below right). Britain's Colin Jackson (above fourth from left) could only take fourth after tearing a muscle at the start. Sally Gunnell, the defending champion, had her own agony in the 400m hurdles semi-final (second from top right) after pulling up injured. Roger Black fulfilled his Olympic dream of an Olympic medal with a silver in the 400m and exchanged compliments (top right) with the runaway winner, Michael Johnson. Haile Gebrselassie of Ethiopia (right) was too strong for Paul Tergat of Kenya in the 10,000m. Photographs: David Ashdown (above and top right)/Allsport/Empics

at the Olympics. "I suppose that if I'd been able to show the form of 1993 and 1994 I'd have taken it," he added. "But that's life. This isn't then - it's 1996. Come 2000, however, he still hopes to return for one more Olympic effort. "I'm still the world record holder and I know that when I'm on my best form I'm unbeatable."

Holmes, too, must have longed to have been in her best form as she entered the finishing straight on the shoulder of the 800m leader, Svetlana Masterkova of Russia. The spirit of the army sergeant was, as always, willing, but the flesh was weak, despite the injection she had had to help counteract the pain she has experienced in recent weeks from a shin injury.

As Masterkova pulled away for a surprise victory in 1min 57.73sec, first Ana-Maria Cirot of Cuba and then the pre-race favourite Maria Mutola, suffering the combined effects of a cold and poor early positioning, came by the Briton, who rocked with effort, her face contorted.

"You can't come here carrying an injury and expect to leave with a gold medal," Holmes said. "I learned that the hard way. But I'm definitely going on to do the 1500 metres even if they have to drag me to the start on crutches. I'm not going to leave this damned place without a medal."

Marie-Jose Percec stated her claim to be regarded as one of the great Olympians as she defended her 400m title with utter grace. The Frenchwoman won in 48.25sec to become the third fastest woman in history behind Maria Koch of East Germany and the mighty Czechoslovakian, Jarmila Kratochvilova.

While Kratochvilova looked like a charging rhino - a side effect, she said, of working hard forking hay on her father's farm - Percec looks like a gazelle. Cathy Freeman, Australia's Commonwealth champion, was the only runner who could challenge her, taking silver in an Australian record of 48.63.

The final track event of the evening, the 10,000 metres, produced a far closer competition as Kenya's finest, Paul Tergat, tried everything he knew to pre-

vent Ethiopia's finest, the world 5,000 and 10,000 metres record holder Haile Gebrselassie from completing the first half of what he hopes will be a double.

It was beyond the Kenyan, however, as Gebrselassie, baring his teeth with the effort, raced away over the final 400 metres to win in 27min 7.34sec.

Ethiopia's national stadium has a display of the five Olympic rings above its main stand. Four of them bare the likenesses of home runners who have become Olympic champions now the fifth and final ring will feature the face of the man Ethiopians call The Emperor.

On Saturday, he will attempt to extend his rule. The Games awaits.



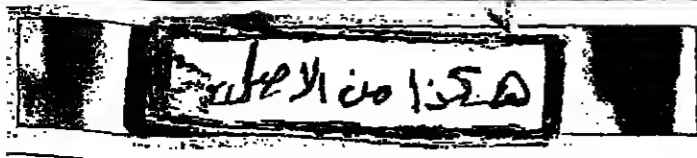
ST LANE

"Is your car..."



IVAN THE TECHIE

SUMMER OF



Hidden Personality
That was the best part of
15 years ago... and he
has come a long way since
the North Wirral VC.

Old

Love it? A Norwegian would

BEING THERE



John Carlin takes in an Olympic handball match – a cross between football, basketball and Gladiators

It is pouring with rain and the queue at the metal detector is 40 yards long, but no force in the world is going to stop Mr and Mrs Pluff of North Carolina from supporting the home team in the US-Hungary Olympic women's handball game.

The white of Mrs Pluff's drenched Stars and Stripes shirt has turned skin-pink. She is battling heroically to light a cigarette.

We strike up a conversation. This handball business, can they explain to me what it is all about? I've never been to a game in my life. Mrs Pluff glances at her husband. "Sure," he says. "Looks to me like a mixture of soccer, football and basketball." He leaves it at that, so I turn for further enlightenment to Mrs Pluff, who is fiddling with a little chrome American flag pinned to her right ear.

"Truth is," she says, "I don't understand a lot of these sports. But we cheer for anybody wearing USA."

Which is probably what people in most countries do during the Olympic Games, I reflect as I arrive at the indoor handball arena, deep in the bowels of a vast concrete slab called the Georgia World Congress Center, three minutes into the game. Hungary are 3-0 up. But the packed crowd – the official attendance, I would later discover, is 7,063 – are not losing heart. "U-S-A! U-S-A!" they roar. Beneath the din I hear another sound. Something strange. A tiny, rattly tinkling. It is coming from a sector of the stands directly across the pitch from me where a block of fans are sitting in regimental order, wearing identical burgundy red shirts. Could those be Belgians? When Hungary go 4-0 up and the "U-S-A" chants subside a little, I make out the sound more distinctly. Yes, they are bells. Cowbells. I can see them now. Each of the red shirts is wearing one, dangling from the neck like an Olympic medal.

Curious enough to discover there is such a thing as an organised core of American handball fans. But the ritual of the cowbells? The oddly discordant suggestion of a nervous Alpine herd?

The mystery is revealed when a man wearing a helmet with horns rears up amidst the throng, waving a thick stubby sword. The Viking is draped from head to foot in the flag of Norway. With the timing only years of peace can bring, to the rhythm of the sword, cowbells in perfect syncopation, they chant what I take to be "Nor-WAY! Nor-WAY!" in Norwegian.

Whereupon the USA score their first goal; the voice of a female announcer yells that the scorer is "Number seven, Sharon Cain!"; a male voice translates the thrilling news into French; and the orchestral cries of the plucky Norwegians are drowned out by the rapturous celebrations of the majority American contingent, who in turn are blasted out of existence by the loudspeaker system and the epic strains of Bruce Springsteen's "Born in the USA".

Down on the pitch, seemingly oblivious to all this madness, 14 female athletes are engaged in the deadly serious business of trying to win an Olympic competition. They are playing on what looks like a shrunken football pitch with a synthetic, aquamarine surface. The goals have nets and they are square shaped, about seven feet by seven feet. There is a goalkeeper and the six outfield players all play defence and attack. The ball is bigger than a tennis ball, but smaller than a football. To advance with the ball, you must bounce it, as in basketball.



Hands-on experience: Despite efforts to generate the frenzy of a professional basketball game, the action on the pitch remained steadfastly, refreshingly Corinthian

Truth is, Mrs Pluff says, 'I don't understand a lot of these sports. But we cheer for anybody wearing USA'

The object of the game, which is played in two 30-minute halves, is to stick the ball into the opposition's net more often than the opposition sticks it into yours. The strategy is to pass the ball around quickly – in the case of the Hungarians, like slick rugby by threequarters – and open gaps in the defence. Defenders are allowed to block and intercept but, again as in basketball, not to trip opponents or snatch the ball from their hands. The skill comes in the shooting, which usually involves hurling the ball from high above the shoulder, like a bowler in cricket. Successful goal-scissors have the ability to jump high and throw the ball with accuracy and speed.

Ester Matefi, a 30-year-old divorced mother, is the star of the Hungarian team. Combining the cold eye for goal of Alan Shearer with the gravity-defying ability to hang in the air of Michael Jordan, she puts nine goals past the hapless US goalkeeper in the first half, each greeted with a burst of music from the loudspeakers. Ten or 20-second snatches from, for example, "Don't you love her madly" by the Doors, "YMCA" by the Village People, and the theme from Star Wars. American attacks are accompanied by what sounds like the music from Jaws when the shark is about to attack. On the rare occasions when the Americans succeed in scoring, the music is twice as loud as when the Hungarians score. The crowd, save for the Norwegians, are losing interest.

I notice that half a dozen men sitting adjacent to the press box are riveted not to the handball but to a television monitor just down from my desk. The Cuba-USA baseball game is on.

"What," I ask one of the baseball fans, "do you think of the handball?"

"I point down to the pitch." "Oh, that. I dunno, but I'll tell you what, if it was boxing, the referee would stop it."

He is right. This is no game. It is a massacre. The only comfort the American women can possibly be drawing as they go into the break 19-8 down is that they are having a learning experience. I head off for a hot dog and meet a young couple whose faces are painted red and blue. They belong to the Norwegian contingent. What are they doing here? They love handball, they say, but, more important, they're getting warmed up, honing their war cries, because after the USA-Hungary game Norway play Germany. Norway are not like the US team, who are "really bad". They're red hot at handball. They won the silver medal in the Barcelona Olympics, second to Korea, who beat them to the gold in 1988, too.

It turns out that handball is a big game in Continental Europe, parts of Asia and, in recent development, Africa. Someone handed me a free copy of magazine called *Wham*, the World Handball Magazine, and I discovered that the International Handball Federation has 138 member countries; that while the Europeans dominate, the vice-president of the IHF is an Egyptian; and that the president of the handball federation of the Central African Republic is the country's prime minister. Sadly, the Central African Republic were unable to participate in the Olympic tournament owing to a shortage of cash. The same goes for Togo, Uganda and Chad, among a number of other mad-keen African handball nations which, I also learnt from *Wham*, have been invaded in recent years by coaching missionaries from Scandinavia.

As have the United States, whose coach is a Swede by the name of Claes Helgren. He said something to his team at half-time because when the US seven come out for the second half they are like women possessed. The American fans – who you would have thought might have taken off at half-time to catch a bit of Greco-Roman wrestling, are going nuts. In the first five minutes, the USA score four goals to Hungary's one. The referee, a portly, mustachioed German kitted out like a football referee, is dishing out yellow cards to the Hungarians like confetti at a wedding. The Hungarian goal is under siege, the keeper performing heroics. *Jaws* is back with a vengeance. The Miami Sound Machine, Michael Jackson and Metallica are celebrating each goal. Two giant electronic screens

flash an order. "Let's have some noise!" The crowd respond. The screen says, "I can't hear you!" They scream louder.

Overwhelmed by the Big Brotherish fervour, a Hungarian woman falls to the ground. The referee blows his whistle. Two medics rush on. A new tune strikes up. "Obi-lad-di, oh-lad-da, life goes on." The US crowd joins in, so do the Norwegians – stomping in step, cowbells shrill as fire engines. The Viking is making stabbing motions with his sword.

within four goals of the Hungarians. The score is 25-21 and there are seven minutes to go. Anything is possible. The Hungarian coach, a white-haired gentleman named Laszlo, calls for a time-out. He shouts and gesticulates at his team.

The tongue-lashing works. The Hungarians slow the game down, play possession handball. Now it's the American women who are frustrated, who are getting the yellow cards. And a red one. "Corte rouge pour numero trois," the male French announcer says, but otherwise the loudspeaker is silent. No music now, only a torrent of hoos. But there are no complaints from "numero trois". She trots off to the benches without even a shrug. In fact, not once in the game did anyone protest a decision by the referee.

For all the efforts of the spectacle's unseen organisers to generate the frenzy of a professional basketball game, the action on the pitch remained steadfastly, refreshingly Corinthian.

This I discovered after the game, which Hungary ended up winning 30-24, when I went for a stroll around the back of the Georgia World Congress building. By a lorry loading bay, where men were unpacking crates of Coke, I came across three members of the Hungarian team. They were chatting like office workers on a tea-break. Two of them were smoking cigarettes.

The Viking from Norway is making stabbing motions with his sword. It's like the Roman Colosseum in here

It's like the Roman Colosseum in here. The Hungarian recovers, two youths like Wimbledon ball-boys rush on with towels and wipe the sweat (or was it the blood?) off the spot where she fell, and the game resumes. But there is no relief for the Magyars. Matefi has faded out of the game, but the US striker Sharon Cain, who does "personal training" for a living, is scoring at will, having spent the first half floundering around like Andy Cole. The USA are

SPORTING VERNACULAR
No 7 TRANSFER FEE

"I simply felt it was time for a fresh challenge," Alan Shearer said about his decision to move back to Newcastle. You could understand his point – at first when you get a salary rise you think you'll never be able to spend it. But soon it becomes all too easy and you inch to be stretched again, forced to think of offshore investments, new ways to prevent that cash sitting up your account. Nothing as vulgar as cash is ever alluded to – it's a fee, a word that implies professional decorum and bills drawn up on letterhead, even if the process itself might look to outsiders like an expensive cattle auction.

As it happens, the link between kine and cash is a very old one. Fee used to mean just that – livestock (from the Old High German *feh*, cattle). It was also used to describe moveable property (not land or buildings, that is) or even money – an understandable range of meanings given that this was a time when many shops carried little signs saying, "We Accept Aberdeen Angus". Had Alan Shearer been on the

transfer list in AD880 – for broadsword wrestling or churl-slaying, perhaps – his signing on fee would have arrived on foot, mooing loudly and depositing manure on the driveway.

The *Oxford English Dictionary* is sniffy about the suggestion that the same word gives rise to the Teutonic *feodum*, the origin for the more modern sense of "fee" (a payment or benefit given in return for a service), though it is hard to resist the feeling that there must be some kind of connection. But here, too, the history offers some interesting reverberations. In this sense, "fee" originally meant an estate or benefit held on condition of service or loyalty – a feudal arrangement that does not seem a thousand miles from the world of modern football.

It is hard to think of somebody on a salary of close to £2m a year as a vassal, but the spectacle of the Premier League baronies tussling to secure the fealty of a famous champion suggests maybe not all that much has changed.

Thomas Sutcliffe

A game of shoot-outs, statistics and schoolkids

It is football, but not as we know it. "Soccer", as they call the sport in the United States, is proving surprisingly popular with the spectating public across the Atlantic. What follows is an attempt to describe life as a soccer fan in the last great nation on earth to embrace the global game.

Major League Soccer, which started in April, is the latest attempt to establish a national professional league in the States. A two-week trip this month took in four matches: a double-header featuring the league's first all-star game plus a warm-up for Brazil's Olympic XI against a FIFA all-star team, and two MLS fixtures: New York/New Jersey MetroStars against Dallas Burn and New England Revolution against Washington DC United.

The crowds that flocked to watch the last World Cup and Olympic soccer, both in California in 1984 and at the present Games, prove that the US sporting public loves the big occasion. The all-star games were no exception: 78,416 packed New Jersey's Giants Stadium, a record crowd for a sporting event at a venue that has hosted countless big American

football games. Only the Pope, who pulled in 82,498 last year, has drawn a bigger crowd there.

Even more encouraging for the long-term health of the game is the popularity of regular league games. Although the figure has dropped since the start of the Olympics, at the time of the all-star games in mid-July the average MLS crowd was 20,420 – with the biggest crowd an astonishing 92,216 for Los Angeles Galaxy's home game against Tampa Bay Mutiny last month.

The average age of a US soccer crowd appears to be much younger than in the UK, with family groups turning up in force. Soccer, cheap and simple to play, is hugely popular in US schools, and now, at last, the kids have some local idols they can watch in their home towns.

Quite what US soccer crowds would make of inner-city stadia like Anfield and Highbury is hard to imagine. Giants Stadium, like Foxboro Stadium in Massachusetts, the home of New England Revolution, is an out-of-town venue, surrounded by motorway intersections and by huge car parks. The fans most-

SPORT IN ANOTHER COUNTRY

Rupert Metcalf travels around the United States in search of 'soccer'

ly arrive an hour or two early, and fix up barbecues in the car parks before entering the stadium. The barbecues are often red-hot after the game, as the kids take over the tarmac to stage their own soccer games. Once inside the stadium, the fans rarely fail to create a vibrant atmosphere. The Mexican wave is by no means out of fashion and, at the MetroStars match, a Latin American-style carnival band, complete with bikini-clad dancers, had their own section of a stand behind a goal.

There were, however, no visible away fans at the two MLS games watched – thanks largely, of course, to the huge distances involved. Alcohol is for sale inside the stadiums, but because most spectators drive to the games, the European habit of groups of lads meeting for a few beers before the game has not caught on.

Just as an American soccer crowd is very different to a British crowd, so is the football. It is hard to assess the quality of play compared with the English leagues because the style is so contrasting. They play in summer (and, not just in Atlanta, that means hot) and the dominant players are often Latin American, so the pace is slower, the passes more measured. Route One is a highway, not a type of football.

Setting drawn games by a shoot-out is not the only rule change adopted by MLS. Stadium clocks count down from 45 minutes and each half stops when they reach zero, and not when the referee blows his whistle – although he does have the power to stop the clocks for injuries. There is no such thing, then, as the painful uncertainty of injury time.

Both fans and media are bombarded by statistics. Goals, assists, saves, clean-sheets, off-sides, fouls committed, fouls suffered and much more – everything is noted and listed.

Adrian Paz, a Uruguayan briefly of Ipswich Town but now with Columbus Crew, is near the top of the list in both the "fouls suffered" and "caught off-side" categories; but the most impressive statistic belongs to Leonel Alvarez of Dallas Burn. A veteran of two World Cups for Colombia, he heads the "cautions" list with a vengeance: 12 games, 13 yellow cards.

It could be that an obsession with statistics compensates for a lack of real understanding of the game in some quarters, but there can be no doubting the genuine enthusiasm of the thousands who turn up to watch. If only the US media would reflect the interest shown by the sporting public – there were more than 500 journalists from 23 nations at the all-star games, but the New York newspapers and TV stations devoted only a fraction of their sports coverage to the two matches. That is a battle US soccer has yet to win.

6 playing the game

Sky high flying

SO YOU WANT TO...
GO BUNGEE JUMPING

By Louis Jebb



Roped in: Bungee ropes (above), colour-coded to relate to a jumper's weight, at the UK Bungee Club. A jumper (left) in action off the club's platform in west London, with Battersea Power Station in the background

There is a memorable view from the UK Bungee Club's jumping platform over the River Thames, in west London. To the south-east are the elegant off-white towers of the disused Battersea Power Station; to the south-west, the trees of Battersea Park; immediately to the west, the piers of Chelsea Bridge; and below – more than 300ft down – a trawler and a barge tied to the riverbank.

It is a view that inspires fear as well as wonder. Nearly 40 per cent of the club's customers have second thoughts about jumping once they have been winched up in the dark blue steel cage, whose sturdy but airy construction does nothing to hide how far down the river runs below them. The club's instructors are well-versed in prompting these would-be jumpers to have the third, fourth or fifth thoughts that give them the will to pitch head-first into space attached to an elastic length of bound latex the width of a scaffolding pole.

Only 1 per cent of the club's customers ask to be winched down again without jumping. "These," says Mark Debenham, the club's manager, "are the really brave ones." Coming down without jumping to endure the sympathy of your expectant friends is more daunting than the jump itself.

Bungee jumping is based on an ancient tradition – Pentecost Islanders in the South Pacific marked their manhood by casting themselves from bamboo towers tied by the ankles to vines – but was devised only 17 years ago, when a group of Oxford University undergraduates formed the Dangerous Sports Club and took to jumping off high bridges on the ends of lengths of bound elastic. What began as their daredevil joke is now big business, developed by Antipodean entrepreneurs into a sport with codes of practice, national associations and jumping centres in Australia, New Zealand, Europe, Africa and North America. These centres each have their own ethos and there are competing schools on how the sport should be spelt – bungee, bungy or bungi. Chris Allum, a New Zealander and one of the leading promoters of the sport, has a business card with the legend "Keeping the Y in bungy".

The UK Bungee Club moved, in February last year to Adrenalin Village, their Thames-side base, which is rented on an annual lease from the trustees of Battersea Power Station. On weekend jumping days, you find your way to the club's Portakabin premises in the second of a series of cars, and you must pay a £100 deposit, which is returned if you join the club and injury disclaimer, and have yourself weighed.

Your weight is written in felt pen on your hand and becomes part of a mantra for the bungee operators. The strength of rope you are attached to by ankles and waist is gauged by your weight and coded by colour. When you enter the lifting area – where the operators fix the waist harness and ankle strap, as they follow you hopping with bound ankles to the cage and then accompany you in the lift – they read off and repeat your name, weight and rope colour. It is part of the safety procedure but also of the concentrated instruction and reassurance that distracts nervous jumpers from feelings of vertigo as the cage is winched rapidly into the air.

When the cage reaches jumping height, the gate is opened, the operator repeats safety checks and instructions once more and all of a sudden you are in mid-air. In the split-second be-

fore gravity takes effect, it feels as if you are hanging, suspended by a thread.

As the fall begins, a great rushing of air can be heard, and the whoops of encouragement from people waiting on the ground. The free fall lasts less than two seconds, the jumper reaches 60mph and feels a g-force equivalent to heavy braking in a car travelling at 20mph. When the rope cuts in, the pull back on the first bounce is almost 80 per cent of the start height. As the rebounds grow milder, the crane driver swings and lowers the cage over the embankment and other bungee operators catch the jumper or jumpers (tandem jumping is popular) and pull them on to a large cushion to recover.

The metaphors most regularly associated with the subject – sex, death and ecstasy – are part of the common vocabulary of mood-altering activities. The cocktail of bungee gets an ex-

tra shot when the blood left behind in the free fall catches up with the front of your head and feels fit to burst from your brows. It is part of the experience that leaves most participants gibbering with excitement after making a jump.

That rush of blood to the head is one of the issues at the heart of the debate about the health risks associated with the sport. In one recent case that received much publicity, a young girl was found to have suffered temporary tunnel vision after making a bungee jump. But the medical report concluded that the patient could have suffered similar symptoms from sneezing or from jumping the last steps of a flight of stairs. It is a fast and exhilarating sport and people cannot jump if they are under 14, have high blood pressure, a heart condition or a damaged back. The UK Bungee Club follows the code of conduct – including the requirement that jumpers are attached to the rope by both the ankles and the waist – of the British Elastic Rope Sports Association, a group set up in 1989 by the Health and Safety Executive.

When I visited Adrenalin Village, there was a party of 20 from the South Coast doing sponsored jumps for charity – a medical student back for a repeat visit who chose the catapult option, in which you are pulled out over the river by the bungee rope; a youth who jumped wearing strait-jacket and hood; a girl who thought better of following her boyfriend's jump and was swamped by wailing supporters who were attached down; and a visitor from Italy, Raimondo Irace, who used his experience of cliff diving in a poised manner from the platform and to keep balance in flight on that dramatic first bounce.

Bungee acrobatics is now a competitive sport and most of its leading practitioners were formerly high divers or gymnasts. For the last two years the sport has featured in the Extreme Games held in New York State; and in November the top 30 jumpers will be going on a world tour organised by Triple C Sports Management, with planned stops at jump sites in Cairns, Australia, Las Vegas, Victoria Falls, and at the Viaduc Soulevé, in Normandy.

The European Extreme Bungee qualifier for this year's Extreme Games was held at Adrenalin Village. The spins and somersaults of these performers are worlds away from the modest swallow dive of the first-time jumper but, for the rest of your life, recalling the memory of that initial leap is guaranteed to give you an adrenalin-driven frisson.

Main photographs by
Sarah Bancroft

Six elastic sport sites around the world where jump



UK Bungee Club, Adrenalin Village, Battersea Wharf, Queensdown Road, London SW8 4NP. Telephone 0171-720 9486

The only permanent bungee jumping site in the United Kingdom, opened in February 1995, jump platform is suspended from a crane 325ft above the Thames – twice the height of most mobile platforms. Home of European qualifying for Extreme Games in 1995 and 1996, UK Bungee Club offers jumping Sat-Sun, 10am-6pm; and Thu-Fri, 1pm-6pm during summer. Also organises mobile jumps and night jumps for groups. Motto: "You can't beat a BJ." Costs: Club membership £15; first jump £35; second jump on the day £25. Free for those jumping for charity who raise a given minimum sum.



New Zealand: Queensdown – AJ Hackett Bungee (Shippers) Tel: 00 64 3442 7222; Pipeline (Shippers) Tel: 00 64 3442 5455. Playground of bungee dreams, with plenty of options if you get bored with plain old leaping. Some of the favoured bungee activities include leaping buck-naked, dressed in leather (complete with whips), and attached to sleds or snowboards (above). For the ultimate day out, the Awesome Foursome incorporates a bungee jump, jet-boat river ride, helicopter ride and white-water rafting. Costs: Kawarau, NZ\$99 (43m jump, plus T-shirt); Shippers, \$110 (77m jump and transport, plus T-shirt); Pipeline, \$130 (102m jump and transport, plus T-shirt). Awesome Foursome, \$299 (transport included).

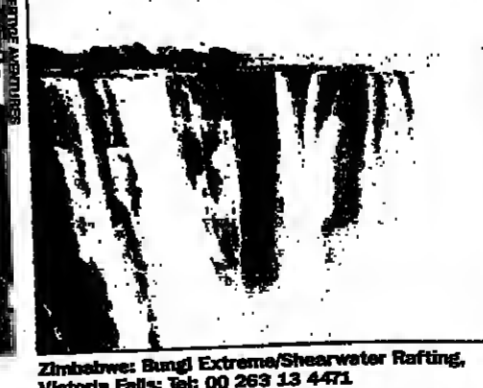


Australia: AJ Hackett Bungee, Cairns (two sites – Cairns Rainforest; Kuranda Market). Tel: 00 61 7031 1119. The Rainforest site is reputedly the busiest in the world. Jumpers climb 247 steps to the top of a purpose-built tower modelled on the bottom section of the Eiffel Tower (above), then dive off the 45m platform towards a creek below that winds through the forest floor. The Rainforest averages 100 jumps a day, with 125,000 having taken the plunge in six years – 100 per cent safety record at Australia's only safety standards-approved site. Like many sites, they are experienced in aiding physically disabled take the plunge – sometimes wheelchair and all. Costs: Rainforest, A\$95 (45m jump and transport plus T-shirt); Kuranda \$100 (jump, T-shirt and video).



France: Vortige Aventures, Pomponnes and Le Saixet, near Grenoble. Tel: 00 33 76424280

Le saute en élastique offered at two bridge sites (103m and 95m respectively), which have attracted more than 80,000 jumpers. Organisers divide the jump into four stages: Préparation ("la pression monte"), émotion ("sur le parapet du pont"), action ("le grand frisson") and récupération. Combined activities include mountain biking, bobsledding, hydro-speeding and whitewater rafting. Costs: UK Bungee Club organises return weekend trips by Channel ferry from Adrenalin Village, in London (details above); £219 for summer itinerary; £199 in winter. Group discounts offered.



Zimbabwe: Bungee Extreme/Shearwater Rafting, Victoria Falls. Tel: 00 263 13 4471

Situated on the bridge linking Zimbabwe and Zambia, the African experience is one of the wonders of the modern world. With a backdrop of the waterfall, jumpers leap off the woodwork, affectionately known as "No Man's Land", and into the gorge, plummeting towards the Zambezi River. They are then winched back up. The site is 31m from Victoria Falls township, and though transport is readily available, walking the route is the popular choice of visitors. As well as a dose of courage for the great leap forward, you will need your passport to make it through border controls at the bridge. Costs: US\$90 (111m jump).



United States: Oak Beach Inn Bungee, Long Island, New York. Tel: 001 516 587 3870

It is not an easy road to travel for US commercial operators, says Chris Allum, the president of the North American Bungee Association. "Americans are 'sue-happy', and that means insurance premiums take up one-third of the cost of each jump. That doesn't leave much for the owner," says Allum, aged 46, a veteran of 3,000 jumps, including a world record leap in West Virginia (above). Some 200 sites operated in the US in 1991, but that is now down to 17 full-time venues. Allum's Long Island site, open in spring and summer, is from a crane, with bouncers leaping out over the Atlantic. Costs: US\$89 (43m jump); \$15 each for T-shirt, video.

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Hidden Personality
He didn't win, indeed, he finished 90 minutes behind the Dane who did. But 39th out of 198 starters isn't bad for a relative beginner.

السباق من الالمان

over the River Thames



A giant leap of faith: A jumper (above) drops from the UK Bungee Club's platform, 325ft over the Thames at Chelsea Bridge, looking west. One of the club's instructors, Kelly Scanlan (above right), executes a backward dive on her exit

Birthplace of bungee has plenty on offer for the bravehearts

Queenstown, New Zealand's premier tourist destination, has long held a reputation for forward thinking. In 1885, for example, the gold miners John and James Mitchell, fed up with delays forced by the weather, solved the problem of dynamite frozen solid by the harsh winter: thaw it on a shovel blade over a live flame. Father and son are buried in Skippers cemetery, victims of the Phoenix mine disaster.

A century on, the pioneering spirit still drives Queenstown, a town of 10,000 permanent residents set on the shores of Lake Wakitipu and flanked by two mountain ranges. Gold-diggers have been replaced by thrill-seekers, with the South Island resort hosting 400,000 international visitors annually. The area's beauty and natural habitats have kept generations of photo technicians in business, and investors are now incorporating the landscape into adventure tourism ventures. Queenstown is now recognised as the home of commercial bungee-jumping.

The world's longest-running bungee site, founded by AJ Hackett, Chris Allum and Henry van Asch in 1988, stands on the banks of the Kawarau River's white waters, 15 minutes out of town. One day while out rock-climbing, Hackett and Allum, bored with clinging to rocks hundreds of metres above the ground, attached rubber bands to their ropes and peeled off the cliff face. By the end of the week, they were using rubber

Garry Ferris on the unlikely international home of the thrill-seeker in New Zealand

ropes and diving off bridges. Bungee-jumping, New Zealand-style, was born.

Allum and Hackett set up a small operation in the central North Island, where they were running a ski-hire shop, before they decided Queenstown offered better opportunities. Eight years on, the enterprise has expanded to two sites - the Kawarau Bridge's 43-metre jump superseded by a 71m plummet into the rugged Skippers Canyon. Hackett's name is still atop the sites, but Van Asch controls the New Zealand operations, with Allum concentrating on bungee in the United States and Hackett going global.

True to their aims, Hackett, now residing in France, has bungee operations in Australia, France, the United States and Bali, and is about to open in Mexico and Asia, while Allum is the president of the North American Bungee Association and has his own site on Long Island, New York. The own site on Long Island, New York. The holder of the world record for the highest leap from a fixed structure, 822ft (251m), Allum is looking to break new ground - underground. He plans to leap 1,100ft (335m) from a subterranean site in Mexico. What

else would you expect from the man who last year launched the Extreme Games. Boasting prize-money of \$350,000 (£222,000), the games consist of nine events: bungee-jumping, street luge racing, sky surfing (aerial sky-diving manoeuvres while attached to a snowboard), mountain biking, BMX racing, dirt-bike jumping (on a half-pipe course), roller-blading (on a half-pipe), barefoot water-skiing and, if the heart is still pumping, knee-board water-skiing.

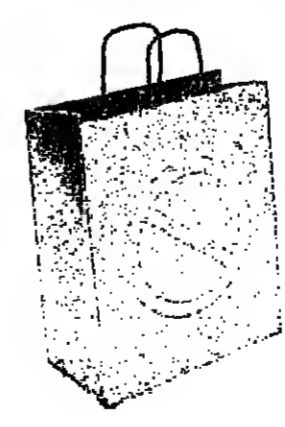
Queenstown's third, and newest, bungee is also in Skippers Canyon. The Pipeline's 102m is the highest jump in Australasia from a fixed-structure commercial site. For the vertigo-challenged visitors to the resort, the surrounding Shotover, Kawarau and Dart rivers are watery highways for commercial jet-boating and river-rafting, which have undergone a big restructuring after four deaths during 1994 and 1995 - a reminder that the greater the thrill in adventure tourism, the greater the risk can be.

The latest craze about to grip the region is a giant-sized sphere made of Perspex in which a person climbs inside then is rolled down a hillside - being caught at the bottom, so the plan goes, by a huge net. (Failing that, the waters of the Kawarau act as the emergency stop.) For a change of pace, the accidental tourist can always visit nearby Wanaka, where you can take a leisurely scenic flight - in a Soviet-built MiG 15 jet.



What's up? Spectators crane their necks while watching a friend bungee jumping at Battersea Wharf, London

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still
making
pointless
purchases"



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8 sport

Blackburn's search for new saviour



Alan Nixon considers the pressures mounting on Ray Harford at Ewood Park following the £15m sale of Alan Shearer

The stellar sum of £15m would, in normal circumstances, be considered a godsend by most managers. Even in today's inflated transfer market it would constitute an incredible windfall to even the most financially stable of Premiership clubs. Yet Ray Harford's unique - unenviable - circumstances are anything but ordinary, and even with such compensation replacing Alan Shearer has put the unassuming Blackburn manager in a position that none of his counterparts will envy.

This week's sale of the prolific England striker, and undisciplined idol of Ewood Park, to Newcastle United has sparked discontent in east Lancashire unknown since the steel magnate Jack Walker began heaping jeer on the club six years ago.

In the search for a scapegoat, Harford has been nominated in some quarters one year after he took on another unenviable role: succeeding Kenny Dalglish in a local radio phone-in, an overwhelming number of callers blamed Harford for Shearer's departure, although few of the arguments were reasoned.

Harford wanted the job of manager when Dalglish moved upstairs in the surprise aftermath to winning the title. Perhaps he is now wondering if the way Scot had seen the troubles coming,

and got out quick to leave some-one else to take the strain.

Last season would be regarded as a relative success in most quarters, but not at nouveau riche Blackburn. The club that has soared from Second Division mediocrities to Premiership champions due to a combination of Walker's millions and the former Liverpool manager's astute and tactical nous is not quite sure how to handle expensive failure. An abysmal finish in the Premiership were seen by some as damning indictments of the inability of Harford - a lauded coach - to handle the demands of management.

Few find it easy to comprehend that Shearer - who this week described Walker as a "father figure" - could turn his back on the club that broke his English transfer record in 1991 to buy the Southampton striker, tipping Manchester United to the player's signature. Criticism of Harford has centred on his failure to build on the team he inherited from the charismatic Dalglish. "If it's not broken don't mend it" is Harford's attitude, one that did not find agreement with Dalglish. The club's new director of football had wanted to bring in Jason McAteer and



Roaring Rovers: Blackburn celebrate their championship victory in 1995. A poor season and the sale of their greatest asset this summer have raised doubts about their manager, Ray Harford (inset)

Alan Stubbs from Bolton, as he felt the side had shown signs of weakness even in their 1994-95 championship campaign.

That McAteer chose Liverpool and Stubbs stayed at Burnley, Park indicated that Blackburn's golden rule had been altered after Dalglish's elevation. Moreover, manager and director were clearly at odds. Harford's signing policy has seemed hurried, in response to criticism rather than one of coherent team building. The signings of Billy McKelvey, a possible sop to Dalglish, and Lars Bohinen, a player who had been a target for the spectacular transfer coup, Chris Coleman was signed only as a result of an injury to Ian Pearce, Niklas Gudmundsson merely padded out the squad while most of the money

generated by David Batty's sale - to Newcastle - was spent on the precocious Gary Flitcroft. Harford, with the exception of Bohinen, has yet to sign a player capable of lifting the club, and appears content to recruit young talent as it becomes available.

Given that Walker's cheque book helped build the club, it is doubly galling that Newcastle's financial muscle has now delivered a blow to Blackburn. With Shearer, and his 30 goals a season, gone, senior players such as Tim Flowers, Colin Hendry and Jason Wilkie may now regret committing themselves to long-term contracts. At Ewood Park there is clearly a shortage of goalscorers in the Shearer mould. Chris Sutton, briefly the other half of the feared SAS pairing, will surely

choose Rovers ahead of Manchester United. Stripped of its prize asset, few will be eager to join Blackburn.

Of course, the Blackburn squad could respond with a display of defiance in the face of outside criticism, determined to prove they are not a one-man band. However, the lasting problem will be finding a marksman who can win the marginal matches with the kind of regularity that Shearer provided.

Crucially, if Harford fails to deliver and the inevitable slip away, there is only one man currently at Rovers who could restore confidence, and that is Dalglish. When he was manager, it was often said that he made tactical changes after Harford had prepared the team for games. Now no one doubts

the method that was in his occasional madness.

The capricious minority who have become engulfed by Blackburn's apparent ability to buy success will not hesitate to call for Harford's head and Dalglish's return if the club's fortunes are not markedly improved. And there is the more reasonable majority who will be more circumspect. However, Harford will remember that there is no bigger fan of Blackburn Rovers than Jack Walker.



Ray Harford

Big stage beckons Shearer

Euphoria on Timeside following the signing of Alan Shearer for a world record fee of £15m knew no bounds yesterday. While Newcastle's more affluent fans snapped up newly-issued season tickets at available season tickets at £1,500 a time, Sir John Hall, the chairman, promised a 60,000-seater stadium befitting the Premier League title, writes Clive White.

With 10,000 fans on the waiting list for season tickets, Sir John accepts the need to move away from the confines of St James' Park. "If you are an ambitious club then 30,000 is just not enough," he said. "We must cater for a new generation of fans and are working very hard off the park on all the things. I think the figure of 60,000 would be realistic for a new stadium."

Sir John predicted that the partnership of Shearer and Les Ferdinand was guaranteed to score goals. "I don't know why Terry [Venables] didn't play them as a pair but I am certain Kevin will play them."

"I'm sure they will get goals and I am sure we will win the Premiership. There is no sense in being second best. It is only a matter of time now before we win some silverware."

Manchester United are hoping that Karel Poborsky, their Czech signing, will receive clearance in time to play in a four-club tournament in Nottingham this weekend. United are due to face Ajax on Saturday while Forest play Chelsea, with the winners meeting on Sunday. Poborsky is set to join his new team-mates in Milan today for a friendly against Internazionale.

Sheffield Wednesday are poised to complete the signing of Wayne Collins from Crewe for £600,000. However, the arrival of Attilio Lombardo from Juventus for £4m has been put back 24 hours because the player is required by his club for a friendly in Switzerland.

Fittipaldi 'satisfactory'

Motor racing

Emerson Fittipaldi, the former Formula One world champion, was described as being in a satisfactory condition yesterday after suffering multiple injuries in a crash during the IndyCar Michigan 500 on Sunday.

Fittipaldi fractured his seventh cervical vertebra and had to undergo five hours of surgery in a Miami hospital.

The 49-year-old, a two-time Formula One world drivers' champion and the 1989 IndyCar champion, had been in a serious but stable condition at a Michigan hospital after the race, suffering with the fractured vertebra, a partially collapsed left lung and a fractured left

shoulder blade. The Brazilian was flown to the Miami hospital, near his home in Key Biscayne, Florida, for the surgery on Monday night. His long-term hopes of complete recovery are good, according to the hospital.

Fittipaldi was hurt in the second lap of Sunday's race when the left front tyre of his car made contact with the right rear tyre of the car driven by Canada's Greg Moore, causing Fittipaldi's Penske Mercedes to slam into a wall and burst into flames. Fittipaldi became the youngest driver ever to win the Formula One world championship in 1972, when he was 25, and claimed the title again in 1974.

First victory for Burns

Rallying

Britain's Richard Burns roared to his first victory in a major international race as he won the Rally of New Zealand yesterday. "Everybody is absolutely over the moon, especially me," said the Reading-based Burns. "To win what's only my fifth event with Mitsubishi is just fantastic. This is by far the biggest victory of my career and I'm beside myself with joy."

Burns was the sole survivor of the Mitsubishi works team after their lead driver Tommi Makinen crashed out on Sunday. He started the final leg 47sec ahead of the Swede Kenneth Eriksson.

Burns, who won the British championship in 1993 when he was 22, held on during yesterday's six stages to restrict the Subaru factory drivers Eriksson and Piero Liatti of Italy to second and third places respectively. Eriksson increased his lead over Liatti in the Asia-Pacific Championship.

The New Zealander Joe McAndrew finished fourth in his Subaru Legacy, ahead of the Australian Michael Guest.

The Czech driver Emil Triner won the Formula Two class for two-litre, two-wheel-drive, non-turbo cars in his works Skoda after the Spanish driver Jesus Puras broke down while leading on the last day.

SPORTING DIGEST

Baseball

NATIONAL LEAGUE: San Diego 5 Boston 3; Houston 2 Cincinnati 2; Montreal 4 Colorado 1; New York Yankees 5 Pittsburgh 0.

AMERICAN LEAGUE: No scheduled games.

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Hidden Personality
Little wonder, then, he once admitted to hating his sport. "I'm a natural competitor rather than a natural sportsman. My sport is just a medium for being successful."

Village of one-shot wonders

Norman Harris sees a recurring nightmare played out on the cricket pitch of proud little Werrington

The village blacksmiths don't exist any more, but Billy Prosser could perhaps be mistaken for the blacksmith's son. His "lucky" batting socks are black and grey, and with his bright blue cap, his heavy build and his un-complicated strokes there is also something of a Bunter about Werrington's opening batsman. "Take that!" each of his strokes seem to say.

And if the blacksmiths are gone, the grounds remain. This one is bounded on the top side by a Devon Bank of incalculable age. A couple of oak trees grow out of this grassy wall, and at its base a few simple planks sit loosely on large stones.

It is wonderfully cool sitting here, though in the distance a heat haze obscures Dartmoor, 10 miles away. This is the equivalent of the front row of the stalls: little more than 30 yards away, Werrington's Bunter flexes his muscles, and every word is audible.

Most of all, Prosser seems to like the straight hit. There is little back-lift but rapid movement of the bat and a decisive follow-through. It indicates considerable strength. And it is not long before one of these thumps clears the man at long-off.

"Keep it going!" shouts a cover fieldman to the bowler. "He's only got one stroke." In the still of the mid-afternoon, the words carry as clearly as a stage announcement. And, just a stage whisper away in the lee of a grassy bank, Werrington supporters buzz quietly as they consider a rejoinder.

Uphill Castle's opening bowler does indeed keep going, and again bowls a challengingly full length. But the next ball also clears the straight fence, and so does another in this same over, the sixes carrying farther and yet farther into the adjacent sheep pasture.

"Keep it going, Billy," comes a voice from the bench. "Keep that one shot going." In the shadow under the cover fieldman's hat, a smile can just be seen. Good humour and tension coalesce uneasily with each other, for this is the sixth round of the National Village Knockout, the competition in which Werrington went all the way in 1994. And it is more, even, than that.

Two years ago, Werrington's path to Lord's featured on these pages. Getting there was a miracle for Cornish characters such as "Bodmin" Moore and "Boy Roy" Cobblecluck. But after their loss in the final, there was bitter self-examination - and a period of trauma from which Werrington are only just emerging. Some felt they had decided themselves into believing that they could chase any



A Cornishman with real clout: The ever-reliable 'Boy Roy' Cobblecluck, the biggest name in Werrington cricket, bats against Uphill Castle. Photograph: Susannah Binney/Apex

total, which is why they opted to bat second after winning the toss at Lord's. They had believed their own publicity. They were naïve. There was even a thought that they made themselves look like yokels by making the minibus driver 12th man.

At the club's next annual meeting, someone stood against the captain, who felt betrayed and left. Relegation in the Cornish leagues followed the next season.

And then the unthinkable happened. The highest name in Werrington cricket, the ever-reliable Roy Cobblecluck, decided he wasn't enjoying the game and should stop. Now a name like Cobblecluck may bring a smile, but Roy is a flinty, proud, competitive cricketer who hates to lose and is sensitive to the thought that, at 51, he might have overplayed his hand.

His decision to retire was short-

lived, though it needed a delegation of players to persuade him back this season. But he has not resumed his other role, that of groundsman. Roy had last year prepared a pitch that was almost too good. It provided a game that is perhaps the most remarkable in the 25 years of the Village Cup. Werrington, on the march to Lord's again, won their East Cornwall group and were at home to Uphill Castle, from Somerset.

Werrington, batting first, recovered from 17 for 3 to reach the massive heights of 299 for 5. Their captain, David Taylor, made an undefeated 151 and the pugnacious Prosser 80. But Uphill Castle's openers very nearly won it on their own. They made 289, a club record, before being parted, and victory came with an over to spare at 300 for 1. It was stunning. Surely it can't happen again this

year. Werrington's supporters seem certain of this as they watch their sixth-wicket pair soundly take the total up to 185, and with 15 from the last over the total reaches 219. With Uphill Castle's target 220, the openers stride out - Andre Belcher, who made 173 in last year's famous encounter, and his captain, Garth Williams, who was 100 not out.

At the end of the first over, Belcher gets a short ball and pulls it decisively to the straight midwicket boundary. It is a most emphatic stroke from a young batsman whose sharply peaked cap seems to emphasise his height and the straightness of his bat. Soon the Werrington bowlers are passing the hat, and on 34 Williams is dropped by the wicketkeeper. Werrington are guarding the boundary - something they failed to do last year. Then, the score was 100 after

10 overs, but now it's 43. Roy Cobblecluck, hastening out to reinforce the boundary men, shares some positive thoughts with Werrington supporters. "The bounce is a bit uneven. If we can eliminate the bad ball and bowl straight... it's a competitive total."

Now another push and a thin edge, and this time the keeper has it. Unbelievably, Werrington have Belcher's wicket for 39. The total is 59. The next over sees Cobblecluck introduced. The old shuffle and slide from a metronomic two-pace approach brings six accurate deliveries and just one run. But at the other end, Werrington are bowling wides. In one over there are five, causing the bowler much raking with his boot of a bowling crease that is obviously the sole cause.

There are mortal wounds, too, as the No 3 batsman dances down the pitch to Cobblecluck and hits him

straight for a big six, then sweeps him for four. Roy turns disgustedly on his heel. Then Williams, on 56, sweeps to square leg and departs for the first time in two visits.

Four wickets fall, but the runs pour through. The end comes quickly. Alone on the off-side boundary, Cobblecluck makes ground nimbly to prevent a four, hinging the ball under control with football-like leg action.

Now he has even more to do, as another ball runs away for the boundary that will spell the end of Werrington's 1996 cup run. Roy can't quite trap this one. As it gets away from him and hits the grassy bank, he leaps despairingly after it. In a man of few words, it is a gesture as eloquent as that minimalist, metronomic bowling action. He lies on his back on top of the grassy bank while Uphill Castle's batsmen race wildly from the field.

Grace Road for the home stretch

THE WEEK AHEAD

With no outstanding team in this summer's Britannic Assurance Championship, Leicestershire have made - and collected - multiple points in the case for the one-time also-rans. Joint leaders with Surrey, they have a shining benefit in the eight-week finale to the season.

Home advantage at Grace Road has been something of a misnomer over the years, but four of their remaining seven matches are there, including the game starting tomorrow against next-to-bottom Northamptonshire. Leicestershire know their own pitches, which this summer have yielded absorbing cricket together with innings wins over Worcestershire and Essex, a victory over Sussex last Monday and a draw with Kent.

Six of their remaining matches are against counties in the lower half of the table, fuelling the thought that James Whitaker will lead Leicestershire to the title in his first season since succeeding the newly retired Nigel Briers, who is taking an appointment as the master in charge of cricket at Marlborough College in September.

Surrey, the only team to beat Leicestershire this summer, meet South Africa A at The Oval tomorrow, delighted with their rise to the top. When falling to Yorkshire at Middlesbrough in early June, Surrey were 13th, having lost all their first five championship tosses.

August remains "out-ground" time, with Warwick and Eastbourne on this week's schedule. Not many visiting players, least of all Glamorgan's, would expect to play at Warwick several times in their career, except maybe those from Yorkshire, who used to make an almost annual appearance. Warwick means "Weor's Valley", which is perhaps why the Welshmen and Hugh Morris feel so at home.

This is Glamorgan's third appearance at Central Avenue this decade, with Morris fondly recalling scoring a hundred in each innings there in 1990. That match produced three other Glamorgan century makers, Matthew Maynard, Viv Richards and Alan Butcher, whose son Gary has less fond memories of the game at Warwick in 1994.

During a rain break, Butcher Jr, apparently on his way to a fish and chip shop, attempted to jump over a small wall skirting the boundary, slipped and broke an ankle. Work-sop used to be the habitat of Fred Trueman, who enjoyed hitting Nottinghamshire bowlers into the adjacent canal, and of Geoff Boycott, whose career average there, faced with Yorkshire relish, was in three figures.

Yorkshire, out of the top two for the first time this season, go to Eastbourne knowing that their own "out grounds", with the exception of Scarborough, are now consigned to history. Park Avenue, Bradford (first match 1881); Harrogate (1894); Middlesbrough (1956); and Abbeyle Park, Sheffield (1974), have all disappeared at the stroke of the county committee's pen.

At least Lancashire were not so ruthless when four-day cricket enforced fewer fixtures. Southport, Liverpool, Blackpool and Lytham host matches on a two- or three-year rota, illustrating that Red Rose traditions are not so easily cast aside. Kent still manage to grant fixtures to Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells. Today they meet Worcestershire at Canterbury and fifth-placed Essex go to Lord's.

Durham, who managed a draw last year with the West Indies, the inaugural touring team to appear at Chester-le-Street's Riverside ground, meet Pakistan there on Saturday. They will be followed by South Africa A on 15 August, when a stadium of Test potential stages its first major representative match, involving the TCCB XI.

Michael Austin

Hope springs eternal at Headingley, where the average English seamer or swinger can be made to feel just like a Wasim or a Waqar

Cricket is not usually an easy game to predict. At Wisden, we are having an in-house prediction competition this summer - or rather two, one for each half of the season. In the first, no one got anything like half the questions right, even though the entrants included such luminaries as the editor of the Almanack and the bloke who brings the page proofs over from the printers.

But just occasionally things go exactly as you expect. Last week I wrote that Pakistan were firm favourites, in my book, to win the Lord's Test. As they were not favourites in William Hill's book, I put £40 on them at 5-2. Any fool could see trouble looming for England.

Their biggest problem is that Pakistan are simply the better team. If you were choosing a composite Anglo-Pakistan XI, there would be some debate about the batting (Atherton, Thorpe, Saad Anwar and Inzamam could be joined by any two from Stewart, Hussain, Ijaz

and Salim Malik), but the bowling would be straightforward. Pakistan have two great bowlers and a very good (and still improving) one, plus the useful Ata-ur-Rehman: we have a very good one who is in danger of being worked into the ground, a fairly good one who is on the treatment table, a very tidy one who never takes more than three wickets, a leg-spinner who would probably do quite well if he could only bowl against England, and a couple of honest journeymen to make up the numbers.

Granted that Pakistan are the more gifted team, the question is whether the England selectors could have done any better with the resources at their disposal. The answer, I believe, is yes. It was a mistake to pick only 13 men in last week's squad, with two of them facing late fitness tests. It meant that Pakistan, as well as knowing that they would have the Reader ball (or rather about 10 of them) to bowl



TIM DE LISLE

with, knew on the Wednesday what England's line-up would be.

It was a mistake to pick Simon Brown. England's makeshift attack was widely acclaimed for its variety, but in fact Brown made it less varied - being a swing bowler like Cork, and a left-arm bowler like Mullaney (with whom, significantly, he never bowled in tandem). Brown might have been the right pick if Atherton had won the curious toss for choice of ball;

having lost it, he should have been able to call on Darren Gough, a reverse swinger and a man who thrives, just as all foreigners seem to, on playing at Lord's (two Tests there, 13 wickets).

So what now? The second Test is at Headingley, which gives England their best possible chance of bouncing back. It was there that they secured their one victory against Pakistan in 1992. It is there that the average English seamer or swinger can be made to feel like a Wasim or a Waqar. England's chief wicket-taker four years ago was Neil Mal-lender. The selectors should think about a one-off cap for Peter Hartley, Yorkshire's 36-year-old stalwart, who could then have the distinction of making his Test debut after appearing in an over-35 international in Sharjah.

They are more likely to plump for Gough, in place of Brown, though. Gough has yet to turn home to advantage for England (two Tests at

Headingley, three wickets). Chris Lewis must return; Ian Salisbury is unlikely to be needed; Mark Ealham, admirable but limited, should give way to a sixth batsman.

Poor old Hick has to go: he has neither the footwork, nor the mental strength, to keep out Waqar's stock ball. The selectors can decide later in August whether he is now a pariah or a Fairbrother, to be picked only for the one-day team.

So two batting places are up for grabs. One goes to Nasser Hussain, much missed at Lord's, and not just for his batting: England had no recognised cover fieldman. For the other, the queue is headed by John Crawley, and he has to get a good run soon. But I would send for a batsman of greater experience and proven class, who has got runs against these bowlers before, and who is brave, gritty and good at shepherding the tail: Robin Smith. Smith is perhaps the only England batsman to have acknowledged that

the inswinging yorker demands a change in technique. Playing for Hampshire against Surrey in the 1991 NatWest Final, he dealt with Waqar by plunging forward and across his stumps. When the yorker arrived, he either clipped it away to leg, or missed it and survived because umpires don't give leg-befores when you are well forward and possibly outside the line. Smith made 78 and was man of the match. The following year in the Test series, he averaged 45, to Hick's 19.

A retrograde step? Yes: Crawley is much more likely to withstand the wiles of Waqar next summer, but we can't always be thinking of Australia. Pakistan are big opponents, and somehow we have to beat them. The team with the best chance of doing so at Headingley, I believe, is this: Atherton, Knight, Hussain, Thorpe, Stewart, Smith, Russell, Lewis, Gough, Cork and Mullaney. Tim de Lisle is editor of *Wisden Cricket Monthly*.



Without the right help David Gower might have ended up in court.

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RULES AND CONDITIONS

1. Only entries made via The Independent Fantasy Football official registration phone-lines will be valid.
2. For your Fantasy Football team selection you may only use the players published in the official lists printed in The Independent.
3. Entries must comprise 11 players and one manager. The players must consist of a goalkeeper plus one of the four team formations listed left. The total cost of the team, including manager, must not exceed £40 million.
4. FA Carling Premiership footballers have been assigned a fictional transfer value by our experts which represent current ability. There will be no correspondence relating to players or their fictional value.
5. Independent Fantasy Football results are calculated on all matches in the FA Carling Premiership. Points are awarded according to the scoring system described in "How to Score".
6. In the event that a goalkeeper or a defender is substituted, the player substituted and the substitute are both deemed to have played in the match in question. Therefore, if there is a clean sheet both players will go to the team whose goalkeeper was substituted.
7. The Independent overall prize of a 1998 World Cup trip will go to the team whose total score exceeds that of any other team over the whole season. If there is a tie, a simple draw will take place.
8. One pair of tickets to see England play at Wembley will be awarded to the manager whose team's points exceed that of any other manager during any month. Each month's running between the dates specified below. In the event of a tie a single draw will take place. The monthly games shall run: Month 1: 17/08/96 to 22/09/96 Month 2: 23/09/96 to 27/10/96 Month 3: 28/10/96 to 24/11/96 Month 4: 25/11/96 to 22/12/96 Month 5: 23/12/96 to 19/01/97 Month 6: 20/01/97 to 23/02/97 Month 7: 24/02/97 to 16/03/97 Month 8: 17/03/97 to 20/04/97.
9. Only FA Carling Premiership matches apply. If a player is transferred out of the Premier League or is unable to play for any other reason, that player will not score within this game from that point on until he resumes playing in the Premier League.
10. All points scored during all Premiership matches count towards the fantasy team's total score for the season and the final top prize. No cup or international matches count.
11. Team selections, once made, cannot be altered until such time as a transfer list may be published in connection with Fantasy Football. There is no limit to the number of entries any person or household may make by individual entry. One PIN claim number will be issued for each valid team registration. You must keep your PIN claim number safe.
12. Closing date for entries is 5pm, 11 September 1996.
13. The competition is open to residents of the UK and Republic of Ireland only. Entries under 18 must be able to provide written permission from parent or guardian if requested and ask permission from the person who pays the telephone charges before phoning their entry.
14. Inaudible, incomplete, incorrect or those entries considered obscene will not be accepted. Newspaper Publishing plc is not responsible for entries lost or delayed in transfer. Proof of magnetic transcript is not accepted as proof of entry.
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THE INTELLIGENT
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You've seen the rest now play the best - Independent Fantasy Football brings you the first real innovation in fantasy football, allowing you to pick the playing formation of your team. You can opt for a defensive strategy with five defenders, three midfielders and two strikers in a 5-3-2 formation, or go on the attack with three strikers in a 4-3-3 line-up. Complete your team with a goalkeeper and a Premiership manager and you'll be ready for kick-off. To put your title-winning team together you have a budget of £40 million to spend. It is up to you how you spend the money, with no restrictions on the number of players you can choose from any one Premiership team. Look carefully and you will find some real bargains, with Alan Shearer on sale for the fantasy price of £11.1 million!

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PRIZES

The overall winner at the end of the season will be the entrant who has accrued more points than any other Independent Fantasy Football team in that time. Win the ultimate prize - a trip to the 1998 World Cup in France. The winner, plus the runner-up, will see all the action of a quarter-final and a semi-final of their choice, plus the final. In addition, the highest scoring team each month will win a pair of tickets to one of England's World Cup qualifying games at Wembley.

HOW TO ENTER

Using your football knowledge decide your team formation from the following four options:

FORMATION A. 4-4-2 4 Defenders, 4 Midfielders, 2 Strikers
FORMATION B. 4-3-3 4 Defenders, 3 Midfielders, 3 Strikers
FORMATION C. 5-3-2 5 Defenders, 3 Midfielders, 2 Strikers
FORMATION D. 3-5-2 3 Defenders, 5 Midfielders, 2 Strikers

You are free to enter as many teams as you wish, allowing you to try out more than one tactical formation, but each team must be made as a separate entry via a separate telephone call.

Once you have chosen your formation, select your team of 10 players to fit your chosen option, plus one goalkeeper and one manager from the list below. Players can only play in the positions that they are listed under and the team's total value must not exceed £40 million. Remember to give your team a name.

Use our Team Selection form below to make a note of your team's details, then dial our registration hotline to register. Where possible, please try to use a tone dial our registration pulse telephone can be used if necessary. Make telephone, although a traditional pulse telephone can be used if necessary. Make sure you follow the instructions on the phone line carefully. At the end of your call you will be given your own special PIN number, which you must keep safe. It can be added to your Team Selection form.

HOW TO SCORE

Every time one of your players scores a goal you will be awarded four points. Four points will also be awarded for goalkeepers and defenders whose team have kept a clean sheet during a match. If a player scores the winning goal, i.e. if there is a one-goal difference in the scoreline, the player scoring the final goal for the team is awarded one bonus point in addition to the standard four points winning team is awarded one bonus point in addition to the standard four points awarded for that goal. Each successful assist (a pass that, in the opinion of our experts, leads directly to a goal) will give a player three points. The opinion of our experts on this matter is final. Each player selected and starting a game will be awarded one point.

Players lose one point for a yellow card and three for a red card. Own goals, either scored or conceded, do not count for scoring purposes.

The Premiership manager that you choose will be awarded three points if their real-life team win, one point if they draw and no points if they lose.

Results will be published in The Independent every Wednesday for all games played from the previous Monday to Sunday inclusive.

Look out for transfer opportunities which will be announced during the season.

Please read the Rules and Conditions carefully before making your call.

Team Selection Form

Team Name	PIN Number	Name	Code	Value
Goalkeeper				
Defender 1				
Defender 2				
Defender 3				
Defender 4				
Defender 5				
Midfielder 1				
Midfielder 2				
Midfielder 3				
Midfielder 4				
Midfielder 5				
Striker 1				
Striker 2				
Striker 3				
Manager				
Point Scores:				Total £
4 points for a goal				
4 points for a goalkeeper/defender clean sheet				
3 points for a successful assist				
1 point when a player is selected and plays				
1 point for a winning goal				
3 points for a manager win, 1 point for a draw				
Lose 1 point for a yellow card				
Lose 3 points for a red card				

THE INDEPENDENT TEAM MARKET

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)
GOALKEEPERS				MIDFIELDERS				STRIKERS				MANAGERS			
300	Seaman	ARS	5.9	457	Watson	EVE	2.7	685	Ginola	NEW	4.2	900	Keegan	NEW	8.0
303	Bosnich	AV	4.0	458	Unsworth	EVE	3.0	686	Clark	NEW	3.0	903	Ferguson	MU	9.0
304	Flowers	BLA	5.2	459	Hottiger	EVE	2.2	687	Woon	NOT	3.4	904	Evans	LIV	7.0
305	Kharine	CHE	3.7	463	Hinchcliffe	LEE	2.7	688	Bart-Williams	NOT	3.6	905	Rivch	ARS	6.0
306	Hitchcock	CHE	1.5	464	Jobson	LEE	3.6	689	Stone	NOT	5.0	906	Royle	EVE	5.5
307	Ogrizovic	COV	2.2	465	Kelly	LEE	3.5	690	Gemmell	NOT	3.0	907	Harford	BLA	5.5
308	Filan	COV	1.5	466	Wetherall	LEE	3.2	693	Parker	LEI	2.5	908	Francis	TOT	5.0
309	Southall	EVE	3.0	467	Dorrig	LEE	1.2	694	Taylor	LEI	1.6	909	Wilkinson	LEE	3.5
310	Martyn	LEE	3.3	468	Pemberton	LEE	1.2	695	Izzett	LEI	2.1	930	Redknapp	WH	3.3
313	James	LIV	4.7	469	Walsh	LEI	2.2	696	Waddle	SW	2.7	934	Clark	WH	4.5
315	Poole	LEI	1.5	470	Grayson	LEI	1.2	697	Blinker	SW	2.2	935	Robson	NOT	3.3
316	Hoult	DER	1.6	471	Whitlow	LEI	1.6	698	Jones	SW	1.8	936	Roid	MID	5.0
317	Schmeichel	MU	5.5	473	Watts	LIV	3.7	699	Hyde	SOT	2.4	937	Souness	SUN	2.0
318	Walsh	NEW	3.7	474	Babb	LIV	2.7	700	Magilton	SOT	2.7	938	O'Neill	LEI	1.8
319	Srnicek	NEW	3.7	475	Jones	LIV	2.8	703	Venison	SOT	2.2	940	Kinnear	DER	2.0
320	Hislop	NOT	2.7	476	Wright	LIV	3.0	704	Heaney	SUN	3.0	943	Atkinson	WIM	2.2
321	Crossley	NOT	1.3	477	Ruddock	LIV	4.4	705	M Gray	SUN	2.7	944	Little	COV	4.0
322	Wright	NOT	1.3	478	Scales	LIV	2.2	706	Rac	SUN	1.0	945	Pleat	AV	5.0
323	Beasant	SOT	2.7	479	Harkness	MU	3.7	707	Agnew	TOT	6.7				
324	Pressman	SW	1.8	480	Neville (G)	MU	3.7	708	Anderson	TOT	5.6				
325	Coton	TOT	3.4	483	Neville (P)	MU	4.1	709	Fox	TOT	3.2				
326	Walker	WH	3.0	484	Irwin	MU	4.9	730	Howells	TOT	3.0				
327	Miklosko	WIM	1.8	485	Pullister	MU	3.0	733	Sinton	WH	3.6				
328	Sullivan			486	May	MID	2.2	734	Williamson	WH	3.7				
				487	Vickers	MID	2.2	735	Dumitrescu	WH	2.7				
				488	Pearson	MID	2.2	736	Hughes	WH	2.7				
				489	Whyte	MID	2.5	737	Moncur	WH	3.0				
				490	Cox	NEW	4.1	738	Bishop	WIM	2.8				
				491	Albert	NEW	3.7	739	Jones	WIM	3.1				
				492	Howey	NEW	3.0	740	Earle	WIM	2.0				
				493	Peacock	NEW	3.0	743	Ardley	WIM	2.0				
				494	Beresford	NEW	3.0	744	Fear	WIM	2.0				
				495	Cooper	NOT	2.4								
				496	Chettle	NOT	2.4								
				497	Jerkin	NOT	2.9								
				498	Lytle	NOT	1.8								
				499	Pearce	SOT	2.2								
				500	Monkou	SOT	2.2								
				501	Dodd	SOT	2.2								
				502	Benali	SOT	2.2								
				503	Charlton	SOT	2.2								
				504	Nolan	SW	1.9								
				505	Atherton	SW	1.9								
				506	Walker	SW	1.6								
				507	Stefanovic	SUN	2.2								
				508	Melville	SUN	1.2								
				509	Kubicki	SUN	2.2								
				510	Ball	SUN	2.2								
				511	Campbell	TOT	3.7								
				512	Caldwell	TOT	2.9								
				513	Austin	TOT	2.2								
				514	Edinburgh	TOT	1.6								
				515	Mabbutt	TOT	2.7								
				516	Dicks	WH	3.5								
				517	Bliss	WH	3.7								
				518	Reiper	WH	2.7								
				519	Hall	WH	2.7								
				520	Bowen	WH	2.2								